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Man arrested after tip from America's Most Wanted

Toronto police have arrested a man wanted for allegedly stabbing a man and a woman with a knife at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, in 1997. A tip from America's Most Wanted, which has featured the case, led police to arrest Chi Quang Du on Monday. He faces two counts of attempted murder. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Celebrate New Year's on the GO

GO Transit will once again be offering free transportation on its trains and buses this New Year's Eve. Free rides will be available from 7 p.m. until closing. To help accommodate late-night revellers, some regular Lakeshore line trains from Union Station will leave later than scheduled. There will also be a special late night bus leaving the York Mills GO bus terminal at 2:10 a.m., making all regular stops to Brampton. For schedules, see www.gotransit.com. METRO NEWS SERVICE

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Don Mills arena plan still alive

NORTH YORK The Don Mills Civitan Service Club, which started thinking about a new arena back in 2001, has a proposal ready to replace Don Mills Civitan Arena, which is 47 years old and falling apart. After years of red tape, the plan is being reviewed and a feasibility report will be presented in May to the community council. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Youth X Press their talent

Jim Bravo, a 35-year-old artist, has a passion for painting. He loves nothing more than doing large-scale murals, portraits or landscapes. In fact, Bravo makes his living painting murals across the city. "Toronto is becoming more hip to the fact we have all these large blank walls."

It's this love of transforming walls into art — like that of Mexican artist Diego Rivera — that Bravo shares with Toronto teens in a unique project called AFC Youth X Press.

He has brought together a group of 12 teens from the Warden and St. Clair avenues area to create a mural on the environment, which will be displayed on a TTC bus in January.

It's part of a unique project created by Julie Frost, executive director of the non-profit agency Arts for Children and Youth. Founded in 1995, its mandate is to provide arts programming to neighbourhoods in Toronto where resources are limited.

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jim Bravo, far right, in front of the mural to go on the Warden 69 TTC bus, with teens who worked on the project, from left: Samuel Smith, Adrian Sterling and Erica Smith.

AFC Youth X Press began this fall with a goal of creating murals painted by disadvantaged teens that would be displayed on buses as a moving venue for public art. The murals will be donated to community centres or social service agencies for permanent display.

For more info on the AFC Youth X Press program go to www.artsforchildren.org

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$40M cocaine taped to hot sauce dividers

Bottles of bright orange hot sauce had an unusual travel companion on the freighter bringing them here from Guyana recently.

Thin packets of cocaine worth a total of $40 million were taped to cardboard dividers in boxes of the sauce destined for a food distribution company in Etobicoke. The shipment — one of the largest drug busts in Ontario history — was seized two weeks ago in Saint John, N.B., police said yesterday.

The hiding method was "very ingenious," said Det. Sgt. Mario Lessard of Durham Region police. "I've never seen it before."

The 276-kilogram seizure of high-quality cocaine followed a year-long investigation into the source of drugs found on street gang members and drug users.

A man was arrested last Friday after unloading all 1,250 boxes at a rented storage facility in Etobicoke.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Stephen Harper's competition for Canadian newsmaker of the year at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Listeria gave food safety a rare star turn in the headlines at **metronews.ca/canada**

Check metronews.ca to stay up-to-date over the holidays with news, horoscopes and games.

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 2 8 8; **Ontario Pick 4** : 6 8 8 9
Encore: 8482909
Daily Keno: 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21, 24, 26, 30, 42, 47, 50, 52, 54, 57, 58, 61, 62, 70.
These results are not official.

metro life panel

Top 2008 events

- 1. Explosions at Sunrise Propane Industrial Gases cause thousands to flee.
- 2. S&P/TSX composite index plunges. Stocks lose about $90 billion in value.
- 3. Toronto's main stock index stages its biggest intraday points drop ever in October.
- 4. GM announces it will shut four North American plants in 2009, including truck assembly in Oshawa.
- 5. Hwy. 400 hit by white-outs. More than 100 vehicles in chain-reaction accidents.
- 6. Media mogul Ted Rogers dies.
- 7. Toronto's public school board votes to open its first Afrocentric school.

Gallagher

- 8. Four found dead in Scarborough bungalow.
- 9. Massive child pornography sweep nets 23 people across province.
- 10. Oasis guitarist Noel Gallagher injured when a man runs onstage at Virgin fest.

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

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4 local

Lane change leads to crash A 33-year-old driver is in critical but stable condition after his car went out of control while making a lane change yesterday and struck a median between Allen Road and a Highway 401 on-ramp. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Dromedary **Christmas pageant star**

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mary-Anne Nova has a tender moment with Yahoo the dromedary and Maggie the horse. Nova runs a charity named Nova's Ark in Brooklin, Ont., and also has goats, donkeys and llamas. Yahoo is the star attraction for the Christmas pageant at the The Westminister United Church in Whitby.

Neighbour mourns 'intelligent little boy'

Five-year-old killed in morning house fire

A five-year-old boy is dead and his mother is in hospital after a fire tore through their Oakville townhouse early yesterday morning.

The blaze broke out around 1 a.m. in the home on White Oaks Boulevard, northeast of Trafalgar Road and the QEW.

Police have not released the names of the boy or his 38-year-old mother.

But neighbour Malu Hohn identified the victim as Bentley Slaughter, her own son Gregory's best friend and schoolmate at Lorne Skuce Public School.

Choking back tears, Hohn recalled how Bentley and Greg would play at her home each night after school. Both were crazy about Hot Wheels toy cars, she said, and had been talking excitedly about Christmas.

"He was adorable — a little bit shy, but a very intelligent little boy," Hohn said, who had rushed outside as the tragedy unfolded.

Hohn said the mother, whom she identified as Kim Slaughter, called out for Bentley as they were taken to hospital.

Police were first to arrive and were told by the mother that her son was in a room upstairs, said Staff Sgt. John Karcz of Halton Region police. Two officers went in but smoke was too thick for them to get upstairs.

Shortly after, Platoon Chief Gerry Lieferink said firefighters went in and found the child unconscious and covered in soot.

The boy was pronounced dead at hospital.

At this point, it appears the boy died as a result of smoke inhalation, but it's too early to confirm, Lieferink said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Investigation

- Initial reports show the fire started in an upstairs bedroom, he said. The Office of the Fire Marshal has taken over the investigation, and could take several days to determine the cause.

Temporary foreign workers fired, soon to be evicted

FACTORY Union organizer Alexes Barillas dropped off $500 in grocery vouchers to some of the 50 migrant farm workers stranded in Ontario for Christmas, knowing they're about to be evicted by a mushroom factory in Halton.

In total, Rol-land Farms has fired 120 migrants and other workers as it tries to save itself from an ambitious overexpansion at its Campbellville factory.

Most of the latest firings are women from Guatemala just a few months into their contracts. They were told yesterday they'll be evicted from the company-owned apartments, for which they pay rent, starting Sunday. They could stay in Canada, but their temporary permits mean they can work only for Rol-land.

Sima Sahar Zerehi, representative of United Food and Commercial Workers Canada, said it's not an issue that only affects Rol-land, noting "This is a warning sign that the federal government needs to seriously re-evaluate the temporary foreign worker program."

Ottawa last year brought in 115,470 new temporary foreign workers, a 19 per cent increase from 2006, while dropping the number of permanent resident immigrants. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Holiday hours

TODAY

- The Beer Store and LCBO are open until 6 p.m.
- The TTC will start operation at 6 a.m.
- GO Transit buses and trains will operate regular morning schedule with early afternoon rush hour.

TOMORROW (CHRISTMAS DAY)

- The Beer Store and LCBO locations will be closed.
- The TTC will operate on Sunday schedule, with subways starting at 9 a.m.
- GO Transit buses, trains will run on a holiday schedule.
- All banks and government offices will be closed.
- All Wal-Mart, Loblaws, Superstores, Price Chopper, Sobeys and Metro stores are closed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Water grab on the sly
Detroit has been drawing Canadian water from the river it shares with Windsor for four decades through pipes that extends 90 metres past the international boundary. An agreement is now in the works to start regulating the water grab. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Olympic icon backs Senate picks

Canadian Olympic icon Nancy Greene Raine, left, backed Prime Minister Stephen Harper, saying that he had to make a rash of Senate appointments if he was ever going to make any inroads on reforming the upper chamber. Greene Raine, who was one of 18 Canadians named to the Senate on Monday, won gold and silver medals in alpine skiing at the 1968 Grenoble Olympics and overall World Cup titles in 1967 and 1968. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Finding inner peace

Spiritual teachers take different paths to same goal

For Michael Gayner, the vehicle is meditation. For Sister Margaret O'Keefe, it is prayer. For both, finding meaningful peace is tied to the practical action of helping to heal others' wounds.

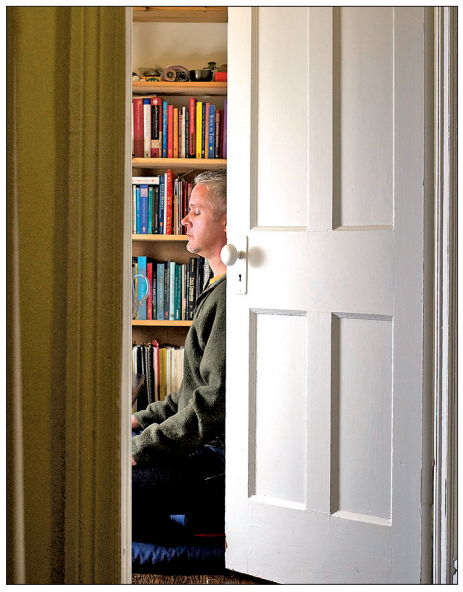
Gayner, 47, is a teacher at the thriving downtown Buddhist community, the Shambhala Centre. He lives on a busy street in Parkdale, works from home as an independent business consultant and meditates daily in a small sanctuary on the second floor of the house he shares with his wife.

Loretto Abbey, a quiet convent nestled among the trees of a stately residential neighbourhood in North Toronto, seems like another world away.

It's there that Sister Margaret O'Keefe, an 83-year-old Catholic nun and retired schoolteacher, recently spent three days in silent retreat with the other nuns.

There is a common thread running through conversations with these two spiritual teachers — that inner peace naturally flows into helping others find peace, too.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Sister Margaret O'Keefe poses in front of the mirror where she first saw herself in the habit 63 years ago. O'Keefe, now 83, became a nun at the age of 20. She and buddhist teacher Michael Gayner shared their thoughts on inner peace.

Michael Gayner

Q: How do you find peace in the city?

A: I don't seek peace through meditation, nor do I find it there. To find real peace for all people, you would have to overlook a lot of injustice in the world. That's not what it's about for me.

Q: So, you see the density of the city as an opportunity?

A: If you become dependent on the mountains or the country for sanity, that's problematic. There's a weakness in being who you want to be.

Margaret O'Keefe

Q: How do you find peace in the city?

A: It's not the place, but the practices that sanctify.

Q: How do you define peace?

A: I think peace is the fruit of your decision to be faithful to your call. It's not outside of you. You can't find peace in things. It has to come from inside.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CSIS stops tapping lawyer-client calls

Canada's spy service has ceased tapping calls between lawyers and suspected foreign terrorists detained under national security certificates in light of a judge's ruling in one of four such cases, an agency spokesman said yesterday.

However, it would be up to each judge presiding over the three other cases to formally decide whether the service should resume monitoring such solicitor-client calls, said John Dunn, with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

Last Friday, Federal Court ordered an end to the monitoring of phone conversations between Mohammad Mahjoub, an Egyptian accused of having been part of an organization with close ties to al Qaeda, and his lawyers.

Mahjoub is one of five Muslim men under a national security certificate as potential threats to public safety.

He and three others have been released on stringent bail conditions, including their consenting to having all their phone calls monitored.

"We were doing this surveillance in the first place because a court ordered it," Dunn said from Ottawa.

"So when the court clarified (its order), we of course followed the court's order, but we also changed our practices at that point in the security certificate cases."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

At issue

- The issue erupted after a secret hearing in Ottawa last week in which a senior security agent revealed the spy agency had been tapping Mahjoub's phone calls — including those with his lawyers. They argued their clients' consent to phone monitoring never included agreeing to having calls with their lawyers tapped.

Canadian teen's fate uncertain

LEGAL A court in Saudi Arabia is deliberating the fate of a Canadian teenager who faces a retrial in adult court for his part in a brawl that left one man dead. The court is trying to determine whether Montrealer Sultan Kohail's case is of public or private interest — with a public case allowing the 17-year-old to eventually plead for a royal pardon. Kohail remained out on bail after a brief hearing scheduled yesterday was postponed. Kohail's brother Mohamed, 23, and Muhanna Ezzat, a 22-year-old Jordanian friend of the brothers, have already been convicted in the death of Munzer Haraki, 19.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

God saved wife: Husband

The husband of an Ontario woman who went missing for three days after a blizzard and was found alive outside in frigid temperatures is calling her survival a divine miracle.

Donna Molnar, 55, disappeared Friday after going out to buy groceries. She was found Monday in a clearing near Ancaster, buried under 60 centimetres of snow.

She was in hospital yesterday in critical condition and could lose some extremities, but is expected to survive.

Police say they believe the snow saved Molnar because it insulated her from overnight lows of -15 C that would have felt closer to -29 C with the wind chill.

"God reached down and cradled her in His arms until they found her."
David Molnar

Her husband, who is Roman Catholic, believes there's something more.

"You know what I think, in all honesty?" David Molnar said in a telephone interview yesterday.

"My sort of take on it is that God reached down and cradled her in His arms until they found her."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DEFENCE Canada's air force will take delivery of its first new maritime helicopter in half a century by November 2010, two years behind schedule and with changes that will cost $117 million. Defence sources say a deal with U.S. defence contractor Sikorsky was concluded recently.

AIRLINE The Manitoba government is now trying to convince Air Canada to reopen its flight attendant base in Winnipeg. Two months after it announced plans to sue the airline for cutting the flight attendant jobs in the city, the province is offering incentives such as a cut in the aviation fuel tax to lure Air Canada. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Bruce Springsteen surprise guest at New Jersey Christmas benefit

A benefit Christmas concert in New Jersey got a surprise Monday night — Bruce Springsteen, who was not on the list of scheduled performers at the fourth annual all-star Hope Concert that raised more than $250,000 US, provided background vocals and guitar solos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Ecstasy pills seized

A 45-year-old Quebec man, Mario Plourde of Saint-Hubert-de-Riviere-du-Loup, has been ordered held on $250,000 bond in a Maryland jail after being charged in a major drug bust. Court documents say Plourde was arrested after investigators in Frederick County, Md., searched a warehouse and a nearby trailer early Friday, seizing about 100,000 Ecstasy pills and 47 kilograms of marijuana. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newsmaker **of the Year**

Barack Obama

Obama seen as president of change

RISE TO POWER Barack Obama, who dominated headlines during his ascension to the U.S. presidency, is the Newsmaker of the Year, as chosen by Metro Canada editors.

His speech at Chicago's Grant Park on Nov. 4 was watched around the globe and had the excitement of a major sporting event.

Obama, who will be sworn in as the 44th U.S. president on Jan. 20, will be the first African-American to lead the world's most influential nation. His rise to power, 45 years after the height of the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King, inspired millions who saw him as someone whose hard work allowed him to break race barriers and succeed.

Adding to the exhilaration surrounding Obama the man is the sense of change he represents as compared to outgoing President George W. Bush.

Obama is seen as the anti-Bush, a leader who can restore the United States' image and improve the economy. METRO CANADA

Report slams Afghan raids

Warns they could turn residents against troops

A scathing report by a human rights commission in Afghanistan says lethal air strikes and "abusive" nighttime raids by coalition forces threaten to turn Afghans against foreign troops.

The report, released yesterday in Kabul, warns that U.S. and NATO air bombings, along with incursions into civilian houses after dark, could undermine seven years of trying to win the hearts and minds of ordinary Afghans.

"Afghan families experienced their family members killed or injured, their houses or other property destroyed, or homes invaded at night without any perceived justification or legal authorization," the report says.

"They often did not know who perpetrated the acts against the family or why. ... To their knowledge and perception, those who perpetrated the acts were never punished nor prevented from repeating them."

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission's 55-page report says the night raids frequently involve "abusive behaviour and violent breaking and entry," which it says stoke almost as much anger toward coalition forces as the air strikes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attacks

- Several high-profile attacks in recent months have killed scores of people. At least several dozen people — including women and children — died in an Aug. 22 U.S. raid on the village of Azizabad in Herat province.

Syria **Santas by the dozens**

BASSEM TELLAWI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian youths take part in a Christmas Carnival in Damascus yesterday. Thousands of young people gathered in Bab Toma, the Christian quarter, to celebrate Christmas. Christians compose 13 per cent of the Muslim country's 19 million population.

China gifts pandas to Taiwan in charm offensive

SYMBOLIC A pair of giant pandas arrived in Taiwan yesterday as a gift from China, a symbolic step forward in the two sides' rapidly improving relations.

Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan set down at Taipei airport after a three-hour flight from Chengdu, as Taiwanese around the island watched spellbound on local television.

Taken together, the pandas' names mean reunion — underscoring Chinese hopes that the animals' arrival will spur unity between the sides, 59 years after they split amid civil war.

The panda arrival follows by a week the initiation of expanded transportation links across the 160-kilometre wide Taiwan Strait and other signs of friendship between Beijing and Taipei.

Since his inauguration seven months ago, Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou has moved aggressively to link Taiwan closer to the mainland, opening the door to a substantially increased flow of Chinese tourists and sanctioning a more liberalized regime for bilateral investments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Water main break traps commuters

FLOOD A massive water main break trapped about a dozen commuters in their cars yesterday as the swift, frigid waters flooded a road in the suburban Washington, D.C., area. Rescuers used helicopters and boats to pluck people from the whitewater unleashed by the break.

There have been several major water main breaks this year in the wealthy suburb of Montgomery County. The pipe that broke yesterday was installed in 1964. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Children abused at ranch: Report

GROUP Texas child welfare authorities say nearly two-thirds of the families living at a polygamous group's ranch targeted in a high-profile raid last spring had children who were abused or neglected.

A report says a dozen girls, ages 12 to 15, are believed to have been abused. An additional 274 children are listed as neglected because parents knew there was abuse in the household but did not move their children away. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TRAPPED More than 170 people were trapped for six hours on the world's tallest ferris wheel in Singapore yesterday after fire damaged the 165-metre Singapore Flyer's control room. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Getting over the hump

First Christmas after a breakup can prove to be difficult

LifeCycle
Denise Rudnicki
drudnicki@gmail.com

If you're celebrating Christmas with your family then this column is not for you. If you are experiencing your first Christmas following the breakup of your marriage, then read on.

That first Christmas is marked by self-pity, regret, sorrow and fear. That's normal. That's even if you wanted the marriage to end.

I remember my own "first Christmas" five years ago in the new apartment, overwhelmed and incapable of making a Christmas for my two teenagers; succumbing to mother's guilt and putting up a small tree; feeling sick as I hung the decorations we'd collected as a family for 20 years; finding the surfing Santa Claus we'd bought on our honeymoon; putting out three Christmas stockings and leaving the fourth one in the box.

I remember their Dad's expensive gifts; my meagre ones; my dumb decision to make pasta for dinner instead of turkey; feeling confused about what family traditions I should try to keep going for the kids; not caring about family traditions anymore; trying not to cry in front of them but sometimes failing; worrying about them; knowing they worried about me. What fun.

It's hard to believe when you are in that black hole of despair, when your home is gone and your kids aren't with you, when you would rather hide under the kitchen table than face Christmas on your own, that it could ever be anything but horrible.

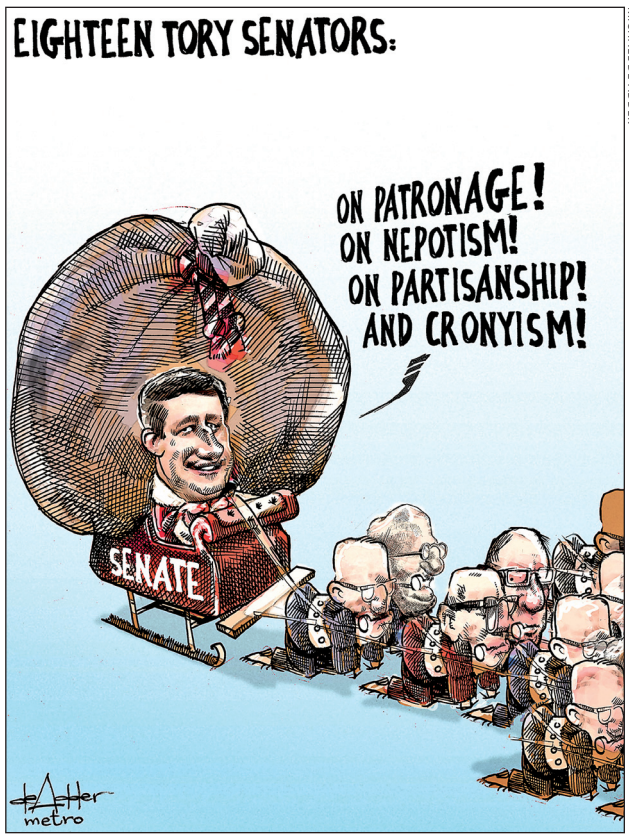
But like everything else, there's a right way and a wrong way to get over the hump. You can either make an opportunity out of the fact that your life has changed or wallow.

So make the right choice.

Get rid of your anger. Stop fighting with your ex. Become independent. Show your kids you can cope with anything. Become an example to them. Your kids would rather see Mom going for job interviews, determined to make a new life, than sobbing in her eggnog as she reads the forwarded Christmas card from her ex-mother-in-law. Keep a sense of humour, even if it's pretty black at first. Believe me, it does get better. You will reinvent yourself and you will be happy again.

Christmas is a wonderful time and you will figure out a combination of new and old ways of enjoying it and making it meaningful. So don't be too hard on yourself if you aren't perfect this first Christmas. Focus on the future, not the past. Love your kids. Love yourself. Do these things and it will be a merrier Christmas next year.

Denise Rudnicki is a West Coast-based writer, communications executive, and journalism instructor at Royal Roads University.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: Do you find the holiday season stressful or relaxing?

Kari Green
age 20, Toronto
A: Stressful. The malls are crazy. People are too aggressive. Nobody has any money these days.

Shawn Jordan
age 33, Toronto
A: Relaxing, because I get to spend it with my girlfriend.

Darlene Sundham
age 52, Toronto
A: Stressful. Work, no time off. It's RSP season coming up. I work in finance and Christmas isn't a fun time.

Roger King
age 29, Halifax
A: In retail it's stressful ... but I get four days off. It's like a good book, it builds up to a climax.

Kirsty MacRae
age 24, Ottawa
A: I find it relaxing. I did all my shopping online, so I don't have to go to the mall. And I got shipping deals, too.

Tracy Leblanc
Edmonton
A: I do find it stressful because I live in Ottawa and my family lives (here in Edmonton) — my luggage got lost and my flight came in at four in the morning.

Letters

Multiculturalism is best thing about living in Toronto

Why do I love Toronto? Because the moment I step outside my home I do not set my feet down in any one particular place. Instead, I set my feet down all around the world.

Imagine the wonder of it all — Toronto being the most multicultural city in the world. A city that is built on the differences of its people, which are so vast, they keep them from falling apart.

Others may see our Toronto as shamelessly idealistic, however, she recognizes that each of us — wherever on the map we come from — are too beautiful to hide our differences, and the greatest thing of all is she doesn't ask us to.

Any prolonged absence from this great place has me aching to catch remnants of the familiarity only Toronto can provide.

A city so great and supported solely on the strengths of love, Toronto can sing its own song and has become an indispensable force of the new generation.

NARGIS CHAMPSI, TORONTO

Royalists transformed Canada into what it is

Re: Are we still a colony? (Dec. 16)

Although Prime Minister Stephen Harper deserves to be criticized for manipulating the Governor General to prorogue Parliament, Lawrence Martin's reference to former Ottawa Citizen editor Keith Spicer's comment about Canada being like Zimbabwe is uncalled for. Both Martin and Spicer seem to have forgotten that it is the royalists who transformed Canada from an overwhelmingly French-speaking country to an overwhelmingly English-speaking one.

Martin fails to realize Canada is not simply another former British colony like India, Australia or New Zealand. It's a country that was founded by people who left their homes and hearths because of their loyalty to the crown.

As for the Governor General, let the Queen choose her own representative without any interference from the prime minister. This will make him/her to act freely without being manipulated by the prime minister.

MAHMOOD ELAHI, OTTAWA

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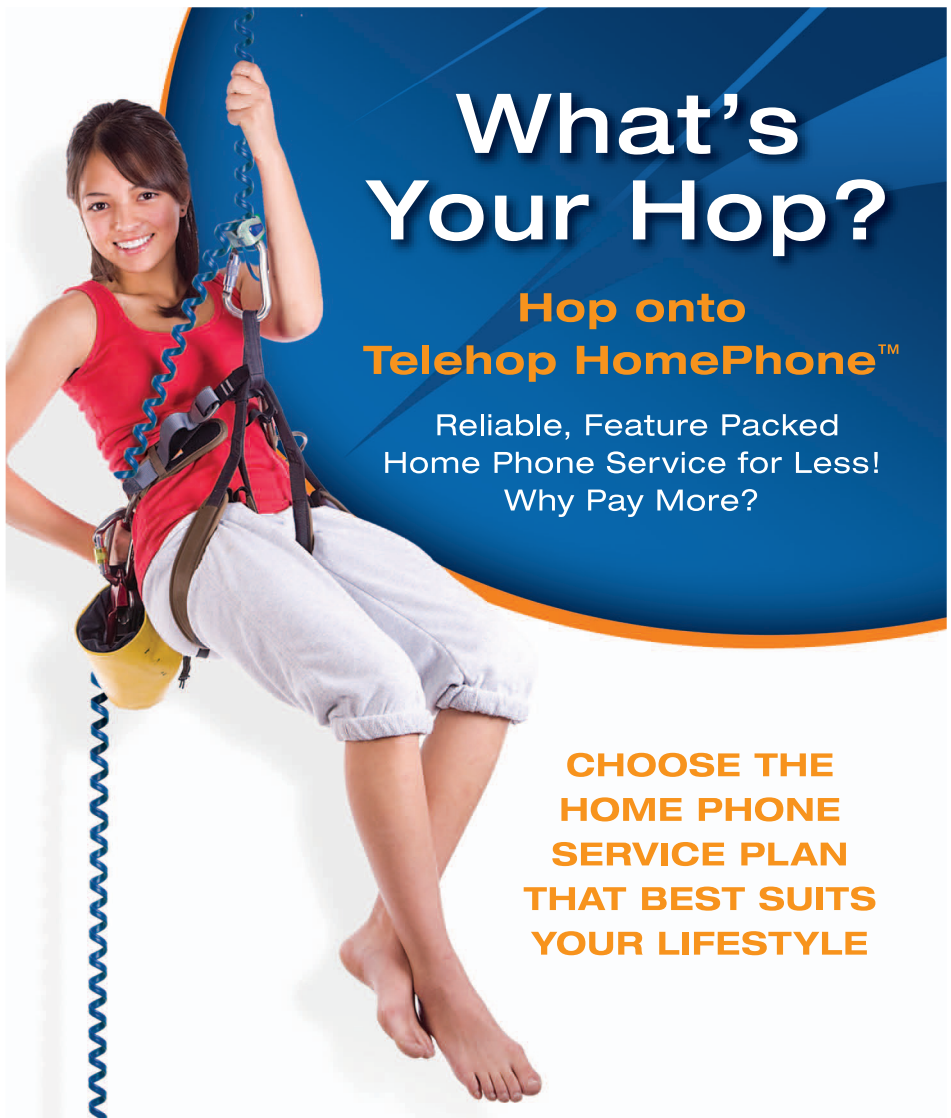

8

Saskatchewan lowers employment age

Saskatchewan is lowering its minimum employment age by one year to 15 for people who work in hotels, restaurants, educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Call to spend $15B

Top CEOs submit 8-page stimulus package

Canada's top chief executives are urging Ottawa to spend $15 billion in stimulus next year to cushion the blow of the falling economy.

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives sent the prime minister and the finance minister an eight-page submission to the Jan. 27 budget yesterday that calls on Ottawa to accelerate infrastructure project spending, cut personal taxes and aid business.

Deficit

- Stephen Harper said last week Ottawa is looking at a deficit in the $20-billion to $30-billion range next year, suggesting his government is preparing to introduce stimulus of between $15 billion and $25 billion.

The submission asks Ottawa to implement short-term measures, including:

— Accelerate public infrastructure spending;

— Help workers that are laid off with retraining;

— Help businesses by making research and development spending fully refundable and extend the writeoff on new equipment;

— Boost spending by reducing the income tax rate for low-income Canadians and incentives like grants for first-time homebuyers;

— Boost the availability of credit for businesses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RDSP allows families to set up tax-free savings for disabled

Families of people with a disability will be able to set up tax-free savings plans under a measure launched yesterday by the federal government.

The registered disability savings plan, or RDSP, will allow parents and siblings of disabled people to accumulate money on a tax sheltered basis.

The government estimates about 280,000 Canadians would be eligible to open RDSPs. Ottawa will provide matching grants of up to $3,500 per year for the plans, which will have a lifetime limit of $200,000.

The government will also deposit an additional bond of up to $1,000 per year in the RDSP for families with annual incomes less than $37,885.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PENSIONS U.S. President George W. Bush signed legislation yesterday that frees U.S. businesses from having to pump billions into pension plans in the coming year, another sign of the nation's deepening economic crisis.

HOUSING Sales of new homes in the United States fell in November to the slowest pace in 18 years, while new home prices dropped by the biggest amount in eight months.

AIRLINES Southwest Airlines has applied for a codeshare agreement with WestJet to allow the airlines to sell seats on each other's flights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro life panel

Top 2008 events

- 1. Financial sector meltdown
- 2. Gasoline prices hitting an all-time high as oil costs a record $147.27 US a barrel
- 3. TSX drops more than 800 points
- 4. Auto sector meltdown
- 5. Hudson's Bay Co. is purchased by American investor
- 6. Housing crisis
- 7. Canada posts its worst November job losses in 25 years
- 8. Conrad Black begins jail term
- 9. Zoom Airlines files for bankruptcy protection
- 10. Manufacturing sector meltdown

Black

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

Diet Coke doesn't warrant 'plus'?

CLAIMS U.S. federal health regulators have scolded Coca-Cola for placing inappropriate nutritional claims on its Diet Coke Plus soft drink.

The Food and Drug Administration objected to the company describing the drink as "Diet Coke with Vitamins and Minerals." Regulators said it does not have enough nutrients to justify the use of the word "plus" and it is inappropriate to add extra nutrients to "snack foods such as carbonated beverages." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Career night for Rautins
Canadian national basketball team member Andy Rautins equalled a Syracuse University record with nine three-pointers in an 82-71 Orange victory over Coppin State Monday night. Rautins, the son of men's national coach and Raptors broadcaster Leo Rautins, also scored a career-high 29 points in the game. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Teixeira to ... where else? Yankees

The New York Yankees, generally perceived to be on the fringes of the Mark Teixeira sweepstakes, dramatically swooped in yesterday to strike a deal for the biggest prize among position players on the free-agent market. The Yankees, who recently signed the top two starting pitchers on the market — left-hander CC Sabathia and right-hander A.J. Burnett — gave the all-star first baseman an eight-year, $180-million US deal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Celtics set NBA record with win

NBA The Boston Celtics set a franchise record with their 19th consecutive victory last night, getting 18 points apiece from Kevin Garnett and Rajon Rondo to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 110-91.

Ray Allen also scored 16 as the Celtics starters watched from the bench while reserves helped expand the lead in the fourth quarter. The crowd began chanting "Beat L.A!" with 5:27 left in the fourth, anticipating the Christmas Day NBA Finals rematch against the Lakers.

The Celtics improved to 27-2 — the best start for a two-loss team in NBA history. And the 19-game winning streak broke the Celtics record set in 1981-82. THE ASSOCIATED

Leafs pummelled

NHL RESULT

Stars 8 Maple Leafs 2

STARS VS MAPLE LEAFS

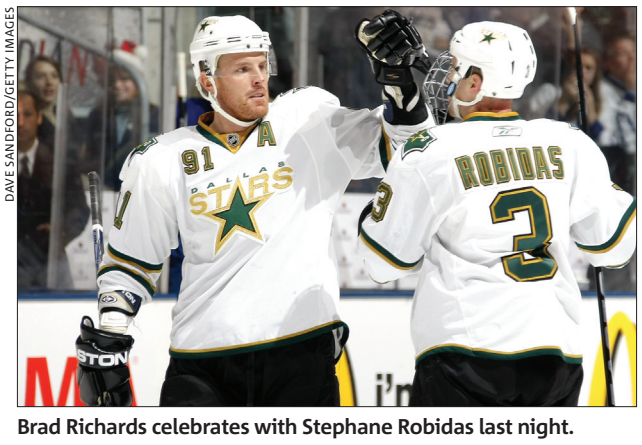
It looks like the Toronto Maple Leafs decided to start their Christmas break one day early.

Dallas Stars rookie James Neal scored his first career hat trick last night as his team hammered the sluggish Maple Leafs 8-2. Thirteen different Dallas players registered a point during the game.

Steve Ott, Fabian Brunnstrom, Brad Richards, Krystofer Barch and Mike Ribeiro also scored for the Stars (14-14-5). Jere Lehtinen, Landon Wilson, Trevor Daley and Stephane Robidas added two assists each.

It didn't take long for this one to turn ugly — the Maple Leafs were down 3-0 before they had even registered a shot on goal. Neal, Ott and Brunnstrom scored on Vesa Toskala in the first 10:45 of the game and it was fairly evident by then that it would be a long night for the home team. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES



Brad Richards celebrates with Stephane Robidas last night.

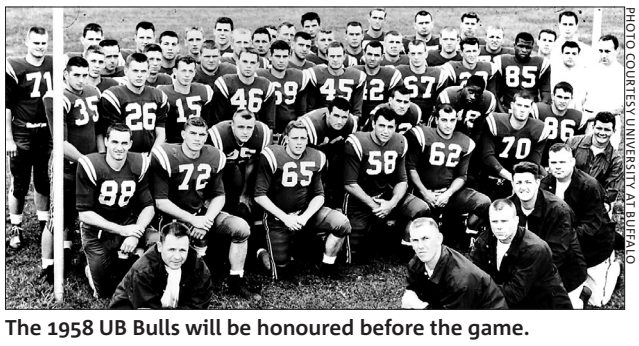


PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

The 1958 UB Bulls will be honoured before the game.

Jackson to speak at kickoff luncheon

Rev. Jesse Jackson will be the keynote speaker at the International Bowl kickoff luncheon Jan. 2, event organizers announced yesterday.

The University at Buffalo Bulls and Connecticut Huskies will meet in the bowl game at Rogers Centre on Jan. 3. The American civil rights leader will appear at the luncheon in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the 1958 University at Buffalo's declining to participate in the Tangerine Bowl because of a rule that barred black players from competing. The team unanimously voted against taking part if players Willie Evans and Mike Wilson weren't allowed to participate.

"Rev. Jackson has been a major proponent in the advancement of human rights and equality," International Bowl president Don Loding said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Juniors' drive for five is ready to begin

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The IIHF world junior championship begins on Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa. Canada, which opens against the Czech Republic at 7:30 p.m. ET, is looking to match its own record of five straight gold medals.

Team Canada's chief scout, Al Murray, sat down to offer a breakdown of the assembled roster.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pat Quinn and company open up against the Czech Republic on Boxing Day.

FORWARDS

John Tavares of Oakville will be Canada's go-to goal-scorer and a productive tournament will help his bid to go No. 1 overall in June's NHL draft.

The scoring line of Cody Hodgson, Zach Boychuk and Jordan Eberle has shown flashes of dominance in exhibition action. Hodgson is a Vancouver Canucks first-round pick and Eberle is an Edmonton Oilers first-round selection.

Western Leaguers Brett Sonne and Jamie Benn are lesser-known forwards who know how to generate offence.

But the Canadian staff built the team on the principle that no line will sit on the bench when a goal is needed.

"It's a balanced group, top to bottom, through all four lines," Murray said. "It wouldn't surprise me on any given day that any of the lines could be our top-scoring unit."

DEFENCE

The top pairing features Los Angeles Kings first-rounders Colten Teubert and returnee Thomas Hickey. Hickey, a two-way force, will also serve as captain.

Alex Pietrangelo, drafted fourth overall by the St. Louis Blues this past June, and Ryan Ellis, a gifted 17-year-old, will log a pile of minutes in power-play situations. Returnee P.K. Subban, a Montreal Canadiens draft pick, and 6-foot-7 Tyler Meyers will also be factors. Subban has been used as a forward when necessary. "We have some strong defensive players on the back end who can do the job when called upon," Murray said. "Both are on top of their games, both have proven track records, and both have battled against each other in the WHL."

GOAL

The starting issue may not be solved until after the round robin, because the staff thinks highly of both Chet Pickard and Dustin Tokarski.

"It's a wide open battle," said Murray. "Both are on top of their games, both have proven track records, and both have battled against each other in the WHL."

OUTLOOK

With only five returnees from last year and Tavares as the only true star, this is a team of no-names for the majority of Canadian hockey fans. There will also be plenty of pressure for the teenagers, with the tournament on home ice and the intense media spotlight surrounding the drive for five.

But Murray said pressure is a something of a myth.

"There's not pressure to win so many in a row, there's pressure to win — period," Murray said. "We come in expecting to win gold and that's an opportunity, not a daunting task."

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Ellis fined $10,000 for snowball

New York Jets defensive end Shaun Ellis was fined US$10,000 by the NFL for throwing snow at fans following the team's loss at Seattle on Sunday. Ellis said yesterday that he wasn't angry at the time, and there was no malicious intent on his part. "It was all in fun," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parker AP female athlete of year

AWARDS It's been a whirlwind year for Candace Parker. She led Tennessee to a second straight national championship in women's basketball, was the WNBA MVP and rookie of the year, and helped the U.S. win an Olympic gold medal. Now Parker has been selected female athlete of the year by members of The Associated Press. "It's been a great year from so many standpoints," the 22-year-old said.

Parker

Parker is the sister of Raptors guard Anthony Parker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yankees to go old school with prices

MLB The New York Yankees announced yesterday that bleacher seats for the games against the Chicago Cubs on April 3 and 4 will sell for 25 cents and grandstand tickets will cost $1.10. That matches the prices for the opener of the original Yankee Stadium against Boston on April 18, 1923. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The season of giving and forgiving

YorkReport

I spend (waste?) lots of time ripping primadonna megazillionaires in professional sports, hot shots who somehow think their perspiration smells nicer than ours. I guess I'm a jaded sportswriter.

Today, however, I'm actually feeling somewhat sorry for some of these same dudes. I guess it's the time of year.

Like, honestly, I'm finding myself hoping Michael Vick and Sean Avery and Plaxico Burress — perpetrators of loathsome acts — get second chances in the new year and rebound from adversity.

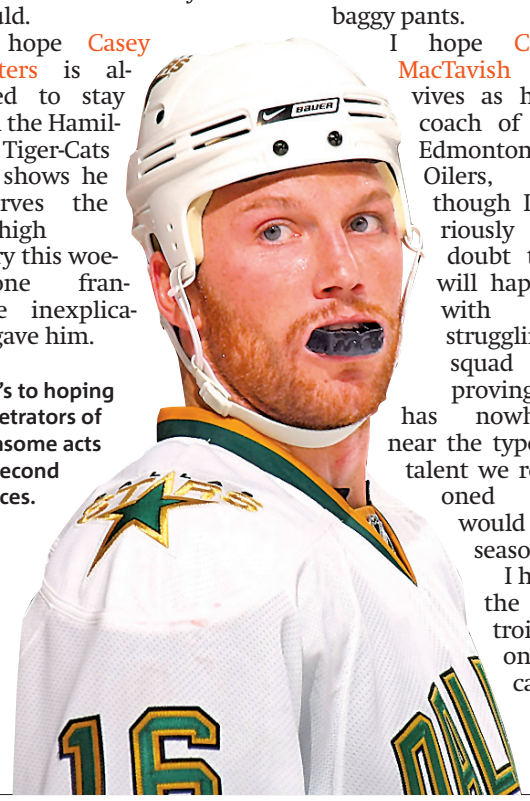
I'm hoping Todd Bertuzzi reaches a mind-easing settlement to an issue that was created by his despicable violence but that has dragged on too long.

I'm hoping Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds somehow prove they didn't load up with performance-enhancing drugs and receive the bouquets we long figured were coming to them for their domination in baseball.

I hope MLB revisits its stance on Pete Rose and welcomes the hits leader into the Hall of Fame before it's too late for him to treasure it the way he should.

I hope Casey Printers is allowed to stay with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and shows he deserves the CFL-high salary this woebegone franchise inexplicably gave him.

Here's to hoping perpetrators of loathsome acts get second chances.



Heck, I'm in such a mood today that I actually hope Don Cherry continues to regurgitate his bafflegab on CBC and keeps on dressing like a clown.

I hope Manny Ramirez signs for the unfathomable dollars he craves and is allowed by his new manager to let his hair grow down to below the butt inside his baggy pants.

I hope Craig MacTavish survives as head coach of the Edmonton Oilers, though I seriously doubt that will happen with a struggling squad proving it has nowhere near the type of talent we reckoned it would this season.

I hope the Detroit Lions can somehow muster up enough to finally record a victory this weekend and avoid becoming the first 0-16 team in NFL history, though I seriously doubt that will happen because they are so very, very awful.

I hope Jay Triano — the first Canadian head coach in NBA history and a decent chap by all accounts — can revive the Raptors, though I seriously doubt that will happen since overrated club czar Bryan Colangelo has provided him with a dog of a team (that has only two bona fide players — Chris Bosh and Jose Calderon).

I hope Maple Leafs bossman Brian Burke smiles. Just once.

I hope the Blue Jays can talk MLB into moving them to a different division.

And I hope you enjoy the holidays.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

NHL Report

• Be sure to check out Marty York's latest NHL Report this afternoon, exclusively at metronews.ca/nhlreport

metro life panel

Top 10 Canadian sports stories of 2008

• Canadians win three gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Beijing — wrestler Carol Huynh, equestrian Eric Lamaze and the men's eight rowing team.

• Not often does a song rank as a top story, but the memorable Hockey Night in Canada theme song played on CBC for the last time in June and moved over to TSN.

Triano

• The first regular-season NFL game was played in Canada and was something of a flop.

• Sam Mitchell was fired as head coach of the Toronto Raptors and was replaced by assistant coach Jay Triano, who became the first Canadian head coach in NBA history.

• The Dallas Stars cut Sean Avery in December after he made lewd remarks.

• Adam van Koeverden was heavily favoured to win gold in the 1,000 and 500 metre races in men's kayaking in Beijing but finished eighth and second, respectively.

• Led by first-year CFL coach John Hufnagel and quarterback Henry Burris, the Calgary Stampeders upset the Alouettes in November to win the Grey Cup in Montreal.

• It was an extraordinarily tough year as a bevy of CFL luminaries died, including Joe Krol, Ron Lancaster, Jake Gaudaur, Bob Ackles, Leif Pettersen, J.I. Albrecht, Ralph Sazio and Earl Lunsford.

• After months of speculation, the Toronto Maple Leafs hired ex-Vancouver Canucks GM Brian Burke as their new chief.

• The Toronto Blue Jays finished out of the playoffs again, brought back manager Cito Gaston in midseason, and said goodbye to club president Paul Godrey.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

SPEEDSKATING Canadian long-track speedskaters will get a chance to break in the Olympic Oval next week. The venue where 12 gold medals will be awarded at the 2010 Winter Games will be the site of the national speedskating single distance championships.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 31 | WEEKDAY SERVICE EXTENDED UNTIL LATER THAN USUAL.
Subway and most routes start at 6:00 a.m. Regular morning peak period service.
Reduced afternoon peak period service, operating from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Most routes with late evening service continue until 4:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve last train details:
1 **Yonge-University-Spadina Subway** leaves Union Station at 3:30 a.m. for Finch Station and 3:34 a.m. for Downsview Station.
2 **Bloor-Danforth Subway** leaves Bloor-Yonge Station at 3:37 a.m. for Kipling Station and at 3:37 a.m. for Kennedy Station.
3 **Scarborough RT** leaves Kennedy Station at 4:05 a.m. for McCowan Station.
4 **Sheppard Subway** leaves Sheppard-Yonge Station at 3:58 a.m. for Don Mills Station.

Thursday, January 1, 2009 | SUNDAY SERVICE.
Subway and most routes start at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, January 2 | WEEKDAY SERVICE.
Subway and most routes start at 6:00 a.m.

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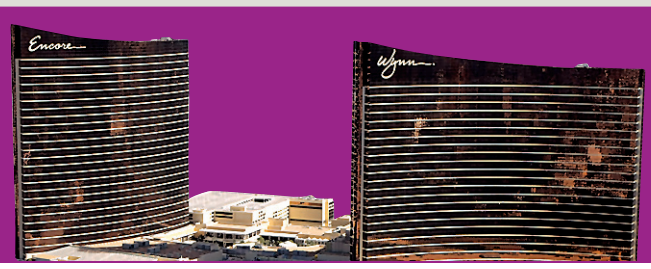
Photo exhibit
A new exhibition at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa called A Letter From Japan: The Photographs of John Swope documents the release of Allied prisoners of war at the end of World War II. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travel



Encore Las Vegas

Entrepreneur Steve Wynn has opened a new $2.3 billion US resort and casino in Las Vegas called Encore, with an Italian restaurant themed on the late crooner Frank Sinatra. The restaurant, which is named for the singer, has Sinatra memorabilia and photos of him on display. Details at *encorelasvegas.com*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

NYC's holiday highlights

TheTravelJunkie

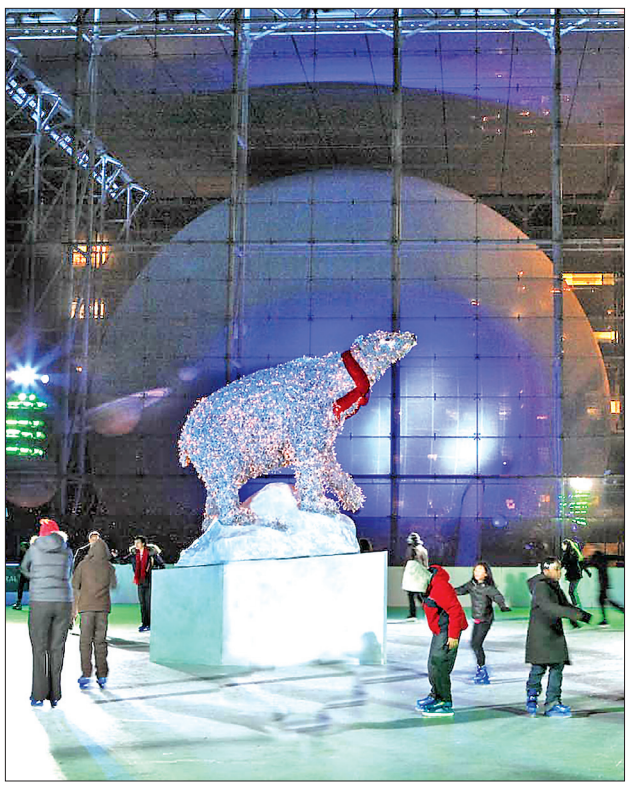
Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Manhattan is a magical place over the holiday season. Twinkling white lights decorate storefronts, while horse-drawn carriages trot through a snow dusted Central Park.

Even with a troubled economy, nothing beats Christmas in New York! With restaurants, bars, theatres and department stores packed with happy holiday-goers, you'd never know we're in a recession.

If you're planning a trip to the city, here are my top five things to do in NYC this holiday season:



AMNH/D. FINNIN

Nighttime skating at the American Museum of Natural History's new Polar Rink.

Practice your high kick:

The Christmas Spectacular, starring the legendary leggy Rockettes, is an annual holiday tradition at Radio City Music Hall, the largest indoor theatre in the world. While the legendary show only runs until Dec. 30, aspiring Rockette dancers can kick up their heels all year long.

The Rockette Experience is a three-hour workshop taught by a real Radio City Rockette. Wannabes can learn choreography from the Rockette's repertoire, go through a mock audition, pose with a Rockette teacher, and take the Stage Door Tour.

The program gives regular people the opportunity to train with these world famous dancers in their actual rehearsal hall. Students must be at least 10 years old, with some training in jazz, tap, and ballet. For $108, you get a Rockette dance class, a tour and a free t-shirt. *radiocity.com/rockettes*

Take the plunge:

If cold water and the onset of hypothermia gets your blood pumping, check out the annual Coney Island Polar Bear Club New Year's Day Swim. At 1 p.m. on Jan.1, hundreds of swimmers take a dip in the icy waters of the Atlantic.

Part rite of passage, part frosty philanthropy, winter bathing has been a New York City tradition since 1903. Pack your swim suit, surf boots, some warm clothes and a sense of humor for a fun day of frostbite. *polarbearclub.org*

Cirque:

Catch Wintuk, a Cirque du Soleil holiday production at Madison Square Gardens, which runs until Jan. 4. Wintuk "tells the touching winter tale of a boy's quest for snow in an imaginary land."

In typical Cirque style, Wintuk includes acrobatics, creatively costumed dancers, puppets and high-energy music.

This family-oriented show boasts some 50 performers, from contortionist tight-rope walkers to jugglers, balancing their technical twists and twirls.

Sharpen your skates:

While there are many iconic places in Manhattan to ice skate (including Rockefeller Center or Central Park) the Polar Rink is a sparkling new facility to cut your blades on. The American Museum of Natural History, which offers such exhibits as Sea Monsters, Climate Change and The Butterfly Conservatory, now boasts a new state-of-the-art skating rink.

Visitors can sip hot chocolate, take in the Upper Westside view and glide around a 17-foot-tall polar bear. Skate rental is included in the ticket price, which is $10 for adults, $8 for kids and $9 for students and seniors. *amnh.org/museum/polar-rink*

Light up:

For an illuminated look at New York, hop aboard a guided tour of Brooklyn's most famous (and often gaudy) Christmas lights. This three-and-half-hour tour takes visitors through the Italian-American neighbourhood of Dyker Heights, a residential area said to have the most extravagant holiday yard decorations. A trip here promises mansions draped with lights and front yards stacked with neon nativity scenes, animatronic toys, mechanical reindeer and 30-foot toy soldiers. Happy Holidays!

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

Ontario outings

GREAT WOLF LODGE

Visitors to Great Wolf Lodge stand under the tipping bucket.

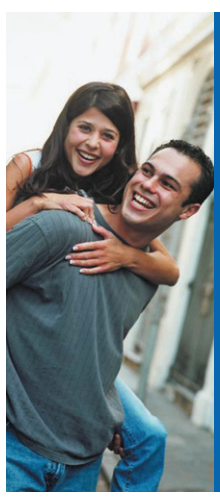
Indoor water park

• Want to get rid of those cold, winter blues? Head over to Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls for some water park fun. Not only are there slides available for all ages, but also a relaxing spa, a fitness room and an arcade. Countdown at the lodge with their Snowball New Year's special for a day packed with fun-filled activities. Visit *greatwolf.com*.

All lit up

• Escape the urban for a night in an 1860's village at Upper Canada Village Heritage Park, Morrisburg, Ont. Stay for the 8th annual Alight at Night Festival and watch the 60-acre historic site be transformed into a wonderland of sparkling lights. Experience nighttime horse-drawn wagon and carriage rides, outdoor skating and toy train rides. Park opens every evening until Jan. 4 at 4:30 p.m. For more details visit *alightatnight.ca*.

JOSEPHINE LIM/ FOR METRO CANADA



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HONDA

#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease example based on new 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £1.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $178.00 with $2,349.45 down payment or equivalent trade, $1,310 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,286.10. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $16,990, plus $1,310 freight and PDI, financed at 1.9% APR equals $523.36 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $540.98 for a total obligation of $18,840.98. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡MSRP is $14,980 for a new 2009 Fit DX, model GE8729E. $1,310 freight and PDI, license, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. MSRP of Fit Sport model shown, model GE8789E is $19,280 plus $1,310 freight and PDI. *No payments for 90 days offer applies to purchase finance offers on new 2008 and 2009 Honda models purchased and delivered by January 2nd, 2009. Offer available only through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. Monthly payments are deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After the 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest (if any) monthly over the term of the contract. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. #/£/†*Offers valid from November 21st, 2008 through January 2nd, 2009 at participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details.

Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

metro life panel

Top cars of 2008

- 1. Honda Fit .
- 2. Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid
- 3. BMW 1 Series. Coupe and convertible
- 4. Mazda6
- 5. VW Jetta SportWagon TDI
- 6. Dodge Challenger
- 7. Subaru Forrester
- 8. Hyundai Genesis
- 9. Ford Flex
- 10. Mitsubishi Evolution MR.

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

FOR MORE ON THE TOP CARS, READ MICHAEL GOETZ'S COLUMN, PG 14

In brief

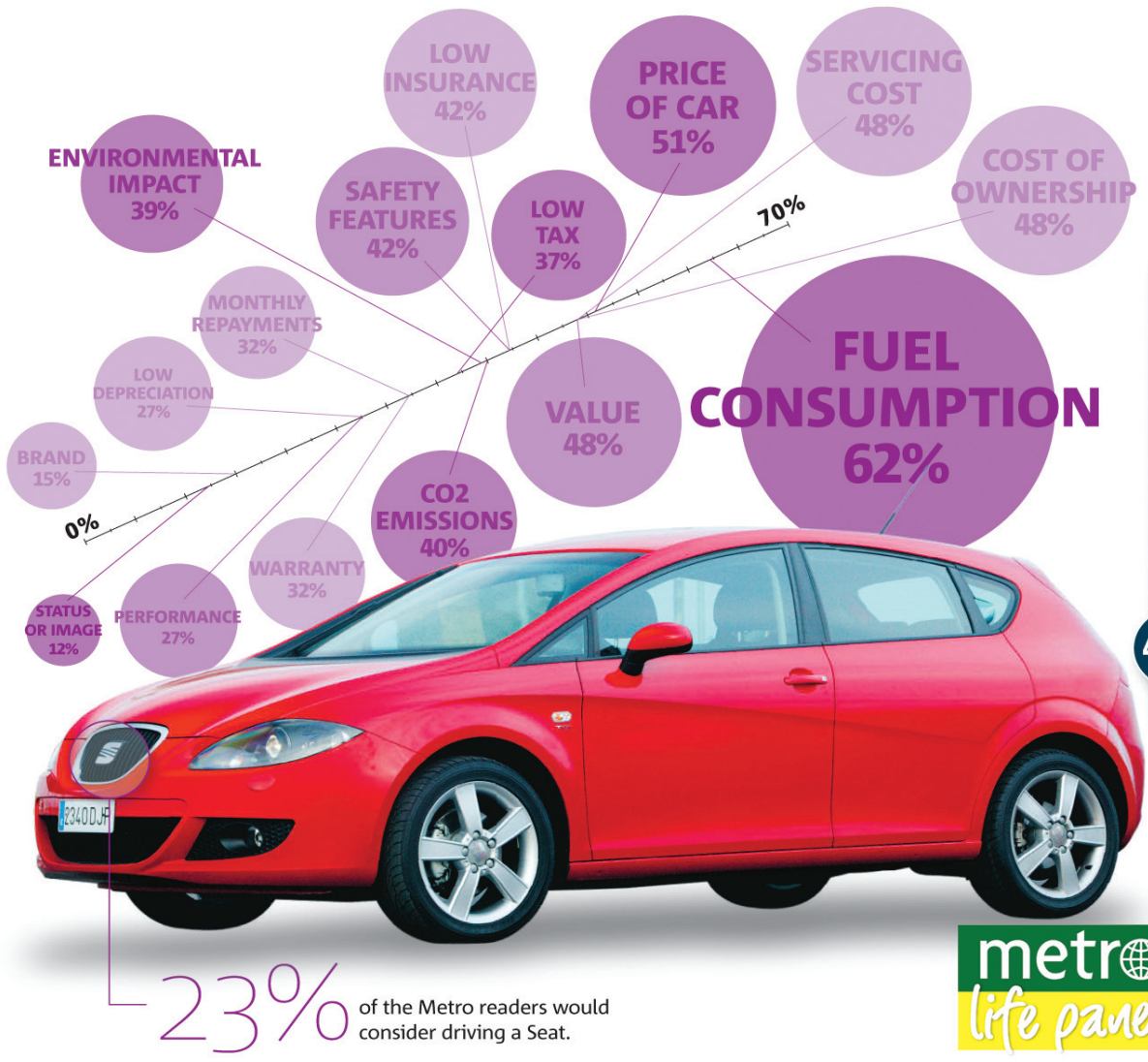
SUPERCAR Russia's first supercar was revealed in Moscow this week. The Marussia is a hybrid developed by racing driver, ex-singer and actor Nikolay Fomenko.

CELEBRITY Rumour has it that Paris Hilton has had her old Bentley Continental GTC spray-painted baby pink by Pimp my Ride custom car shop, West Coast Customs.

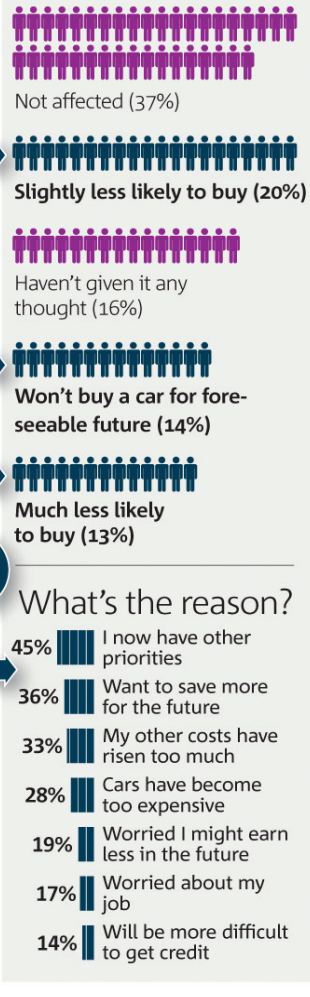
HONDA Business Week magazine has named the most recession-proof cars. Want a reliable car that keeps its value? Buy a Honda CR-V, MINI Cooper or BMW 328i.

SAFETY The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in the U.S. has named the Mercedes-Benz C-Class one of its Top Safety Picks for 2009. METRO NEWS SERVICES

With the recession, what do we look for in a new car?



Have your plans on buying a car been affected by the economic downturn?



The credit crunch approach

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Metro readers are car lovers. Despite living in cities, on average 69 per cent of readers from Vancouver to Milan own a car, according to a recent survey of Metro's global reader panel, Metro Life Panel.

This crazy credit crunch isn't putting us off — nearly one-third of us plan to buy a new car in the next 18 months. In fact, Metro readers are an optimistic lot — 37 per cent of us say the economic situation hasn't affected our decision to buy a car.

Metro readers love a new car — more than half bought their car brand new, and of those planning to buy a car will buy new.

We're buying new cars but our priorities have changed. Before, it was all about safety and CO2 emissions, now we're more interested in costs. Metro motorists are thrifty: We care more about fuel consumption, price and value of a car.

Metro readers are economical and eco-friendly. In U.S. and Canada, we drive SUVs, but fewer than five per cent of the rest of us do.

With 23 million Metro readers worldwide, it's good news for both the economy and the environment.

Nissan on best tech list

AWARDS Nissan Canada has announced that Infiniti's groundbreaking Around View Monitor technology was named one of three finalists for the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada's 2009 Technology Awards.

The Around View Monitor was launched in January 2008 and has become a landmark technology for Infiniti. It uses small super wide-angle cameras, mounted on the front, side and rear of the vehicle, to project a sharp Real-Time 360 degree view of potential objects on every side of the vehicle, helping reduce blind spots when parking.

First introduced on the 2008 Infiniti EX, the system uses advanced image processing to provide a unique top-down view of the vehicle, making it easy for the driver to position the vehicle for parallel parking by simultaneously confirming the exact placement of the front and rear of the vehicle.

A digital image processor creates the image and an in-dash colour monitor displays the image.

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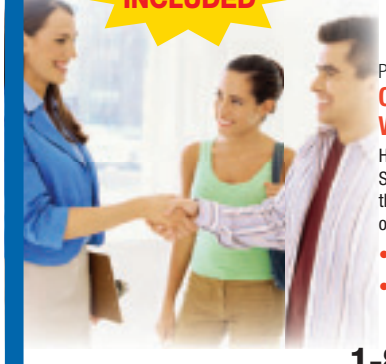

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Make vroom for year's best

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz
Veteran auto journalist

A plethora of all-new vehicles appeared over the last 12 months.

So let's have a quick look back at this veritable smorgasbord of vehicle offerings, and see what whetted our appetite, and what caused some gag reflex action, part way down the old esophagus.

Our favourite small car of the year, hands down, is the Honda Fit. This thing fights way above its weight class. Our favourite small-ish car with muscle is the 291-hp Mitsubishi Evolution MR. With S-AWC (Super All Wheel Control), which can vary the torque to all four wheels, this thing can turn an average driver into a Michael Schumacher.

BMW's new "entry level" line, the 1 Series, is not perfect, but it pushes all my rear-drive buttons. The automaker's 230-hp I6 from the 3 Series is fitted into this smaller, lighter package, with predictable results. The optional twin-turbo 330 hp version is, well, even better.

"Our favourite small car of the year, hands down, is the Honda Fit. This thing fights way above its weight class."

If you need a crossover with three rows of seating, we really like the stylish and space-efficient Ford Flex. If you can get by with a smaller crossover, our pick would be the redone Subaru Forrester. Its flat-four engine keeps weight low in the chassis, and a turbo-charged version is optional and a great way to get more shtickle without going to a six.

You might have shied away from The General in recent years, but the big lug pulled no punches in bringing its latest mid-size sedans to market.

The Malibu, Aura, and G6 are all derived from the solid Epsilon platform, and this year's introduction of the Malibu Hybrid has our vote as best four-cylinder sedan.

Another great sedan in our books is the new Mazda6, which has grown up and matured to compete more directly with Accord and Camry. Roomy, stylish, comfortable, and still goes Zoom, Zoom.

Another fave this year is the VW Jetta SportWagon TDI, the first to sport VW's new super-clean 2.0-litre turbo diesel engine. Great way to move to a station wagon without going totally Brady Bunch.

The concept of "Hyundai" and "luxury" may seem at odds, like the Maple Leafs and Lord Stanley, but the new Hyundai Genesis is the real lux deal — and great value. Go Leafs Go.

The new Dodge Challenger might be disappointing in some ways. Too heavy. Too big. But what the hell? It rings a lot of emotional bells.

New or redesigned vehicles that surprised us this year, by how extremely unappetizing they were, included the Chrysler Sebring Convertible (clunky and chunky), the Altima Coupe (a dark tunnel of an interior), and Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder (the Stephen Harper of sports cars).

Thankfully there's no more room to expand this anti-list. Who wants to be rude during the holiday season? Have a good one.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

The 2009 Volkswagen Passat CC has a coupe-like look for a four-passenger sport sedan. The Passat CC was the winner in the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada Best New Family Car more than $30,000. It is now in the running for 2009 Canadian Car of the Year.

Passat CC a head-turner

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

When I first saw the Volkswagen Passat CC at the Detroit auto show last January I was impressed by its styling.

Finally, here was a Volkswagen with real pizzazz, one that stands out and makes a statement.

Not that all the other Volkswagen offerings are bland, but none are as stylish as the Passat CC — a sedan with a sweeping roof line that gives it a coupe-like look, similar to the Mercedes CLS. It's so striking it just may be the best-looking Volkswagen ever produced.

And when I had a chance to drive it for the first time at the recent Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Car of the Year Testfest in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I came away even more impressed.

So were the other judges. The Passat CC (the CC stands for Comfort Coupe, I'm told) was judged Best New Family Car more than $30,000 for 2009.

It's available with two engine choices — a 2.0-litre four-cylinder in-line turbocharged engine, producing 200 horsepower and 207 lb/ft or torque and a 3.6-litre 280-horsepower V6 with 265 lb/ft of torque. While the Passat CC is a head-turner because of its superb exterior styling, the interior is nothing to sneeze at either.

Whether in Sportline or Highline trim, the cabin is nicely done. The stylish dash is well thought out with all knobs, gauges and buttons easy to reach. Some observers think the dash material with its "pebbly" appearance takes away somewhat from the elegance of the design, but I really don't have a problem with it.

The interior of the Passat CC is very upscale with nice use of wood and brushed aluminum accents in the Highline edition, starting at $37,995.

2009 VW Passat CC

Type: Four-door sedan
Price: $31,975 to $44,975
Engine: 2.0-litre four cylinder, inline turbocharged with intercooler and direct injection
HP: 200-280

Highlights

- AWD
- Attractive styling
- Award-winning

The use of polished aluminum and wood grain trim as interior accents adds to the appeal of the cabin and the Nappa leather seats in my test vehicle were top grade. However, the seat material in the base model as driven at Testfest was just fine and I'd have no problem living with the Sportline trim level.

The sport-style driver's seat is heavily bolstered and I never really got it adjusted for a perfect fit. I suspect that was my doing rather than a design factor. Rear seat headroom was adequate and actually better than expected with the sloping coupe-style roof line, which is about 50 mm (two inches) lower than in the Passat sedan.

Legroom is also fine for rear-seat passengers, but this is truly a 2 + 2 design with buckets front and rear. With that in mind, it's clear Volkswagen doesn't look at the CC as a true "family car," but one that will appeal to professionals and young couples looking to move upmarket, perhaps from a Jetta or Golf.

In AJAC testing, the CC produced acceleration numbers of 7.9 seconds (0-100 km/h) and 5.9 seconds (80-120 km/h) and a braking number of 43.1m (100-0 km/h). Fuel consumption ratings for the 2.0T are 10.8L/100 km (26 mpg) city and 7.1L/100 km (40 mpg) highway with an average of 9.1L/100 km (31 mpg). Premium unleaded fuel is recommended.

On the road, the Passat CC is a delightful car to drive and equally at home on the highway or back roads.

The 2009 Passat CC breaks new ground for Volkswagen with a European-styled sport sedan that has coupe-like looks and superb handling at an affordable price.

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In the lap of luxury

Lexus GS 350 delivers the goods and more

The elegantly proportioned Lexus GS 350 is situated between the ES series and the top-of-the-line LS luxury sedans.

ROB BEINTEMA
for Metro Canada

Luxury and Lexus have become synonymous for customers.

That tends to create a certain level of expectation and raising the bar on luxury comes with a corresponding set of demands — for power, performance and handling, especially in the increasingly competitive sport sedan segment.

Which explains the Lexus GS series.

The GS lineup offers a diverse selection of midsize performance luxury cars.

If you want to compete, you've got to start with the tried and true recipe of balanced power, an agile suspension and a rear-wheel-drive platform. Lexus comes through with those basic ingredients and more in the GS 350.

2008-09 Lexus GS 350

Type: Midsize luxury performance sedan
Price: 2008 GS 350: $51,000; 2009 GS 350: $51,200
Engine: 3.5-litre DOHC V6
HP: 303

Highlights

- New styling
- Upgraded standard equipment
- Quick acceleration

The GS 350 starts with a taut chassis mounting an independent double-wishbone style front suspension and multi-link rear control arm suspension. Building on that foundation, the GS 350 offers a full suite of performance technologies starting with electric power steering, Vehicle Stability Control, Traction Control and Hill-start Assist. Stopping power is provided by front and rear ventilated disc ABS brakes with Electronic Brake Force Distribution and Brake Assist.

The GS 350 harnesses a 3.5-litre DOHC 24-valve V6 with dual variable valve timing (VVT-i) and it makes an impressive 303 hp @ 6,200 rpm along with 274 lb/ft of torque peaking at 4,800 rpm. There are other models and power options, but customers need look no further for satisfying oomph and stoplight launch.

Fuel economy is acceptable, rated officially at 10.9/7.4/9.3L/100km (city/hwy/combined). My average ran around the 11L/100km mark. The V6 comes with a recommendation of premium octane fuel. I guess if you can afford the car, you can afford the gas.

Power from the 3.5-litre V6 is translated smoothly through a six-speed automatic transmission, blending the overall ride and handling harmoniously with that long list of dynamic performance technologies mentioned earlier.

Inside, the GS 350 offers a handsome blend of colours and textures.

The interior is comfortable but taller drivers will feel the seat does not sink far enough into the floor. The cabin is well appointed but not overly ornate.

My tester's mix of cream and dark grey textures, brushed metal and chrome highlights accenting the California Walnut woodgrain was particularly handsome, especially on the console. The optional Navigation System display on the centre-stack was large and very legible.

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University of Saskatchewan dean concerned over province's therapist shortage

The University of Saskatchewan's dean of medicine is "extremely distressed" by the province's serious shortage of occupational and speech therapists. The dean hopes Saskatchewan's first class of such therapists will start training in 2012, when the E-wing of uSask's Academic Health Sciences Centre is expected to open. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Athletics at Sault

Late next month, students at Sault College will vote on whether or not to increase their contributions to a new athletics and student life centre. The referendum will ask students to boost the fee by $25 in each of the next three years, and by $8 in the fourth year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Construction dearth predicted

Job Trends

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

There's a fear the current economic downturn could create a deficit of skilled construction workers over the long term.

"A lot of the older workers who were hanging in there because they were making hay while the sun shines … may decide to call it quits," said George Gritziotis, executive director of the Construction Sector Council.

Like many trades, construction has an aging work force with few trainees entering the field.

As a result of the recession, Canada and the United States are both seeing decreases in new construction projects, and in turn, a surplus of workers.

But Gritziotis says there will be peaks again, making it even more critical to focus on "training up" and preparing for the next upswing.

"The industry has a tendency to look for real short-term solutions," he said.

Quintin DiCresce became a Certified General Carpenter last fall.

After working in retail management for 10 years, he came to the conclusion it was time for a change.

He always enjoyed working with his hands and five years ago decided to leave retail to start a carpentry apprenticeship.

DiCresce hasn't looked back since and says his only regret is that he didn't enter the field sooner.

Like many trades, construction has an aging work force with few trainees entering the field.

"It's kind of invigorated my soul," he said.

Carpentry, however, just like any of the other trades, suffers from a stigma that it can't seem to shake, he said.

"It's oftentimes thought that construction people are low brow," he said. "We're not intelligent."

But quite the opposite, DiCresce is articulate and knowledgeable, he studied Geography in university, which wasn't his calling in the end, but that had nothing to do with a lack of ability or intelligence.

The Construction Sector Council offers career-awareness programs to promote the trades to younger generations and Gritziotis says it would be a "huge mistake" for the government to discontinue investing in Canada's skilled labour force at this point.

The government's possible economy-stimulus package for infrastructure in the New Year, Gritziotis says, will once again infuse the industry with jobs.

Still short

- Jason Bouzanis, a spokesman for Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, says that as recently as six months ago, mining and construction industries were facing labour shortages due rapidly changing technology and an aging population, as well as market-driven factors. Public infrastructure investments have also contributed to the shortages.
- "Market factors have certainly declined due to recent economic developments, however current intelligence indicates that there are still shortages in some trades and regions," said Bouzanis.

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Study calls for higher pay

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

A new study suggests Toronto families cannot live effectively on the minimum wage.

According to the report released by the Good Jobs Coalition and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Ontario's minimum wage of $8.75 per hour — the lowest legal wage allowed by law — falls well short of the $16.60 per hour needed to live acceptably in the city of Toronto.

The study considered a family of four where both parents work at least 37 hours per week while receiving all applicable tax credits and children's benefits. After all expenses were taken into account, the study concluded that each parent would need to earn an hourly wage of $16.60 to live at a "decent, but hardly generous" standard of life.

Hugh Mackenzie, a research associate with the CCPA who co-authored the study, says the minimum wage only covers basic subsistence costs such as food, shelter and clothing — it doesn't come close to covering things such as transportation, occasional recreation, household upkeep and extracurricular pursuits.

"While the minimum wage is what you need to survive, a living wage is what you need to participate in the economic, political and cultural life of a community," Mackenzie said.

Most sobering of all, according to Mackenzie, is the fact that the living expense estimates in the report are extremely frugal — just $127 per week to feed a family of four, for example.

"The bottom line is even at $16.60, a reasonable person would say even that is a conservative number," Mackenzie said.

Jim Stanford, co-author of the study, agrees and says the study didn't inflate figures in any way.

"We held focus groups with families in the GTA to confirm whether our estimates reflect the reality of everyday living. We discovered that, while it covers the basics, our living wage estimate is still quite modest," Stanford said.

While Mackenzie insists the report's finding are not meant to instigate a doubling of the minimum wage, he hopes the results will inspire employers into questioning what kinds of lives they're giving to their employees.

"People work better when they're not struggling to survive, yet jobs that pay a living wage are easy to lose and hard to win back," he said.

"One of the things we hope the results will do is slow down those people who say the minimum wage is too high," Mackenzie said.

Non-OHIP expenses

- CCPA research associate Hugh Mackenzie also hopes the study will reignite debate about strengthening public support services to alleviate costs such as child care and non-OHIP medical expenses.

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Last-Minute
Gift Guide
Special holiday gift guide for the last-minute shopper

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Deck the halls with reds, whites

NATALIE MacLEAN
for Metro Canada

Still looking for a last-minute gift? Those on your list who enjoy wine are the easiest to shop for: One size fits all, you don't have to spend a bundle to get a delicious bottle and doubles are great for the cellar.

Here are my top 10 favourite wines to give as gifts, to enjoy with your holiday dinner or to treat yourself.

2008 Cono Sur Viognier, Chile ($10.95 SRP)
Amazing wine for the price. Gorgeously aromatic with notes of rose petals, lychee, apricot and Asian pears.
Pair with: Curries, Asian dishes, shellfish, sushi, salads and turkey.
Score: 89/100.

2006 Cookoothama Chardonnay, Darlington Point, Australia ($13.95 SRP)
A round, warm Chardonnay with ripe apples, butter, vanilla and melon. Closed with a screwcap.
Pair with: Roast chicken, corn.
Score: 87/100.

2007 Gabbiano Pinot Grigio, Venezie, Italy ($12.95 SRP)
A crisp white with mild white grapefruit and melon notes. Good acidity.
Pair with: Shellfish, salads, vegetables, quiche, goat cheese and pear salad.
Score: 86/100.

2006 Louis Jadot Chardonnay, Burgundy, France ($20.95 SRP)
Classic Burgundian lines with mellow richness. Ripe apples, butter and smoke fill the glass. Full-bodied.
Pair with: Pasta in cream sauce, seafood risotto.
Score: 89/100.

2006 Don Mendoza Reserve Merlot, Mendoza, Argentina ($10.50 SRP)
A lip-smacking, delicious and full-bodied red. Notes of mocha, luscious plums, black cherries and vanilla. Smooth and round. Vineyards are in the Uco Valley, which has hot days and cold nights.
Pair with: Grilled lamb, steak with mushroom sauce, pasta in a spicy tomato sauce, dark chocolate.
Score: 89/100.

2007 Wolf Blass Gold Label Adelaide Hills Pinot Noir, Adelaide Hills, Australia ($21.95 SRP)
A vibrant, medium-bodied red with ripe cherries and plums. Silky tannins. Closed with a screwcap.
Pair with: Chinese five-spice duck with wild mushrooms, steam greens and turkey dinner.
Score: 89/100.

2006 Tinhorn Creek Vineyards Cabernet Merlot, British Columbia ($17.99 SRP)
A lovely, rich and deeply textured Cabernet Merlot. Notes of black raspberries with vanilla and smoky oak.
Pair with: Red meats, pasta with tomato sauce, strong cheeses, dark chocolate.
Drink: 2008-2012.
Score: 90/100.

2006 Perez Cruz Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, Maipo Valley, Chile ($13.95 SRP)
An absolutely phenomenal wine for the money! Rich, robust with black plums and comfort.
Pair with: Spicy dishes, steak, hamburgers.
Score: 90/100.

2007 Chateau Des Charmes St. David's Bench Vineyard Gamay Droit, V.Q.A., Niagara Peninsula, Ontario ($16.95 SRP)
A peppery, robust number loaded with delicious blackberries and black plums. Great balance and smooth texture.
Pair with: Rare prime rib, beef stew, Chinese egg rolls, asparagus, dark chocolate truffles.
Score: 89/100.

2004 Cathedral Cellar Shiraz, South Africa ($16.95 SRP)
A rich, layered red with dark red fruit and a hulking oak wrap. Big, bulky and tasty.
Pair with: Steak, boar, roast, grilled meats.
Score: 89/100.

Natalie MacLean, author of the bestseller Red, White and Drunk All Over, publishes a free wine newsletter at nataliemaclean.com.

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Last-Minute Gift Guide

All hope is not lost

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

There's still a bit of time to buy that special someone a gift.

"I should have listened to her more."

The phrase crackles through my brain like lightning as I clamour for a gift, or even a gift idea, for my girlfriend. For months, she had dropped hints and I was just too stupid to listen. I tuned out the clues among the 13,000 more words she says per day than I do, words that I dismissed as idle chit-chat while dreams of AC/DC tickets and Kenny vs. Spenny DVD sets danced in my head.

Well, look at me now. Fighting testy last-minute men like me as we scramble for something that proves we actually care. It's a scene common to shopping malls as the clock ticks down to the big day, says Anna Waller, co-host of W Network's The Shopping Bags. While not attempting to stereotype, Waller says men are more likely to put off their seasonal shopping until the last minute, and can show up to a mall with no plan.

"One common mistake men in that position make is that they wander aimlessly into the mall with no clue about what they want to buy," she said. "Shop in the magazines first to get an idea of what you want. Then you get in, get it and get out. No problem."

Waller says you can still, even at this desperate hour, guess what she might like for Christmas. You can surely answer some of these questions: What does she do on her time off? What makes her happy? Has she recently landed a new job?

"Women are always talking about what they want. You're supposed to be paying attention," Waller said. "Women think it's romantic when you know exactly what they want. If you don't know, ask yourself what's been going on in her life. You can even keep a secret diary of what she says."

Ideas for the techie

Still looking for inspiration? Check out these ideas, along with approximate prices, from Best Buy's Kiara Barrett:

- DVD/Blu-Ray box sets, such as the James Bond Blu-Ray Collection ($64.99)
- Apple 1GB iPod Shuffle ($49.99)
- Global Holdings 1.5" Digital Photo Frame Keychain ($19.99)
- Hasbro Oye I-Dog, left, ($24.95)
- Best Buy gift card

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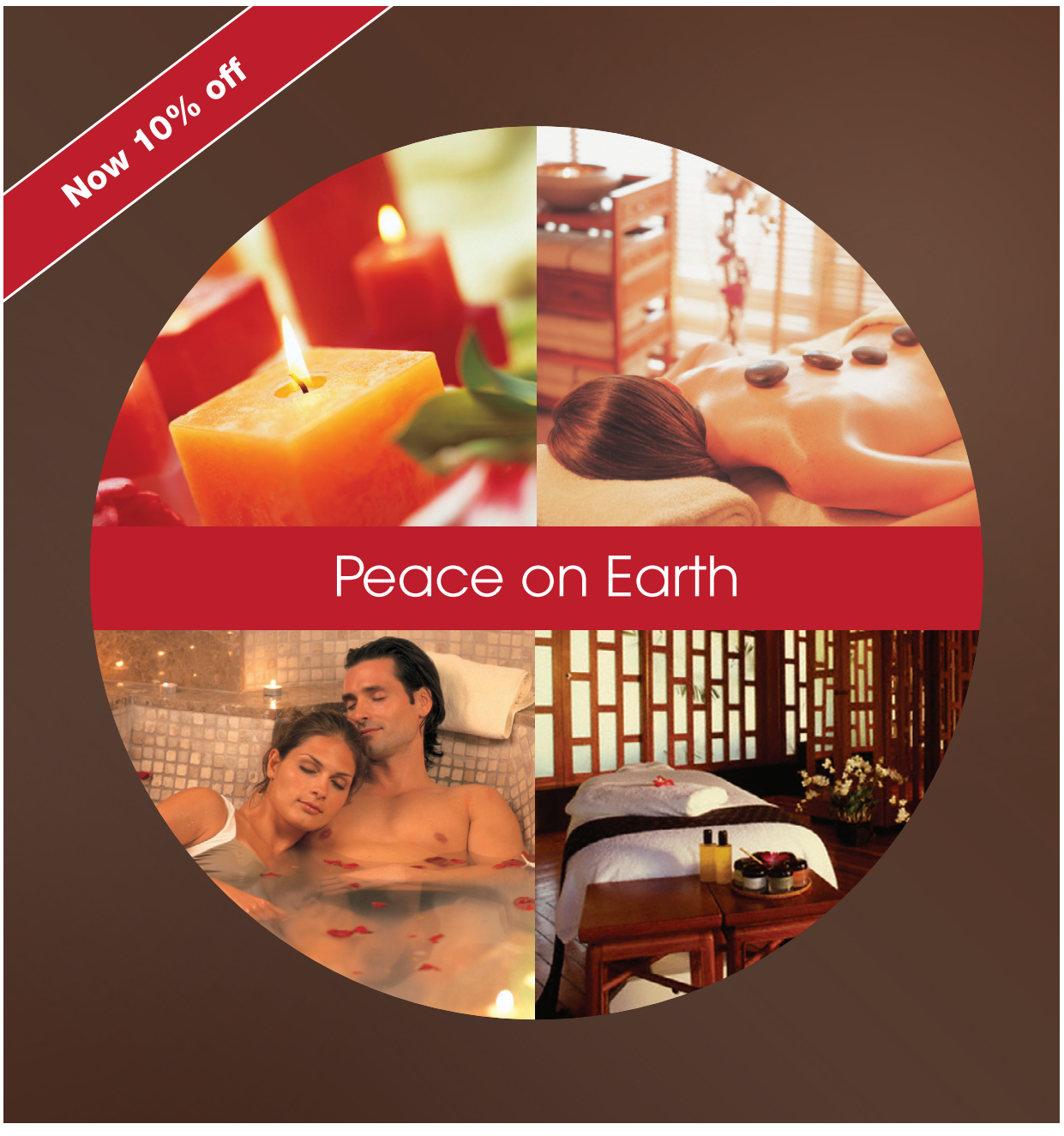

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Valuable hanky

Scarlett Johansson's used tissue has raised $5,300 for charity. U.S. TV network NBC put the soiled tissue on auction website eBay after The Spirit star appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno last week. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

You betcha

Tina Fey was voted The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year, an annual honour chosen by newspaper editors and broadcast producers across the country. MSN.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Bedtime Stories boring

Bedtime **Stories**

Director: Adam Shankman
Stars: Adam Sandler, Keri Russell
Classification: G
Rating: ●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Bedtime Stories brings Adam Sandler to Disney and the results are predictably placid. Sandler's once anarchistic comic spirit has been dulling with age and joining the Disney team feels like an appropriate crash landing for his downward trajectory.

The film is far too predictably childish to appeal to the actor's core audience, coming off like the type of forgettable family comedy that would have starred Steve Guttenberg and gone straight to video ten years ago.

Adam Sandler stars as Skeeter Bronson a bumbling man-child who spent his life working maintenance in a massive hotel. While babysitting his niece and nephew, Skeeter discovers that when he tells the children a fairy tale based on his life, the kids can make predictions about what will happen in his own future.

There are certainly a few funny sequences in Bedtime Stories, but for the most part the film relies on slapstick and silly voices. Sandler is as endearing a screen presence as ever, but his character has no personality, so he rarely gets the opportunity to be funny outside of the fantasy sequences.

Adam Sandler

Guy Pierce, Lucy Lawless, and the always welcome Russell Brand score some big laughs in supporting roles, but the film that surrounds them is so lifeless that their work feels wasted. That said, Bedtimes Stories is so inoffensive and has enough funny moments that it is a difficult movie to despise, but it's not that easy to truly like either.

Believe all the Wrestler hype

The **Wrestler**

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Stars: Mickey Rourke, Marisa Tomei
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

When we last saw director Darren Aronofsky, he was fielding flack over his controversial, half-loathed and half-loved, The Fountain, a picture who's ambitious storytelling seemed to spill out from the most fevered of imaginations.

Which is why his latest film The Wrestler is, on the surface, such a startling sidestep. Telling the tale of downtrodden, past his prime rope rider Randy (The Ram) Robinson and the desperate web of misery he weaves in the twilight of his life.

Aronofsky abandons the slick visual palette he employed in the nihilistic Requiem for a Dream and the time/space mind warp of The Fountain in favour of a gritty, low budget, intimate and emotionally shattering peek into a heart without hope.

Much has already been written and whispered about The Wrestler being the resurrection of equally faded '80s icon Mickey Rourke — and for once, the hype is supported by truth. As Robinson, the now brute-like Rourke (rendered almost unrecognizable) delivers a performance so painfully honest that he appears not to be acting at all — for all intents and purposes he is The Ram. If Rourke doesn't lock up an Oscar for his blistering work in this picture, then there truly is no justice in the world.

metro life panel

Top 2008 actors

- 1. Heath Ledger (The Dark Knight)
- 2. Meryl Streep (Doubt)
- 3. Angelina Jolie (Changeling)
- 4. Sean Penn (Milk)
- 5. Brad Pitt (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button)

Ledger

Top 2008 movies

- 1. The Dark Knight
- 2. Wall-E
- 3. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- 4. Slumdog Millionaire
- 5. Frost/Nixon

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

Elton avenue?
Sir Elton John is to have a street named after him. Councillors in the London borough of Harrow are considering honouring their most famous former resident following a Local Government Network report that encourages the celebration of local heroes. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

Valkyrie lacks thriller tension

Valkyrie

Director: Bryan Singer
Stars: Tom Cruise, Bill Nighy
Classification: PG
Rating: 🌐🌐½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Valkyrie sputters ... for anyone who knows Hitler's true fate.

There's no doubt Valkyrie was an ambitiously high-risk project for Tom Cruise. Why else would he be making the rounds on the talk show circuit (in Canada no less!) selling it as "great drama"? I don't recall him having to do that for Mission: Impossible III.

The truth is, Valkyrie will likely struggle to fill theatre seats as it focuses on the true story of an assassination attempt on German dictator Adolph Hitler.

Cruise plays Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, a tragically injured soldier that joins an inside gang of Nazi conspirators to eliminate Hitler, but the group's sights are ultimately set on overthrowing his government by re-writing a document called Operation Valkyrie.

Focusing mainly on the conspiracy's planning stages, director Bryan Singer (X-Men) has tried to design Valkyrie as a sort of suspenseful heist drama. And why not? After all, the resistance involved many high-ranking officers in Hitler's Nazi Party.

It's a fascinating, complex story and one that history buffs will surely get a kick out of but as "great drama," Valkyrie has its flaws. While Cruise is fine enough, the complexity of many characters' motivations remain under-explored.

As well, the drama lacks the true tension of the espionage thriller it craves to be. Perhaps that's because of the film's biggest drawback: After two hours, Valkyrie sputters to a foregone conclusion for anyone who knows Hitler's true fate.

Like Operation Valkyrie itself, sometimes the most ambitious plans go slightly awry.

Button fantastical, surreal

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Director: David Fincher
Stars: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett
Classification: PG
Rating: 🌐🌐🌐

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Brad Pitt definitely gives the best performance of his career in The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.

There's a lot of talk about Brad Pitt possibly sneaking an Oscar for his role in The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. We'll have to wait and see if that happens but one thing is certain — he definitely gives the best performance of his career.

Based on a tale by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Button tells the life story of a man who is born with the physicality of an 80-year-old but mysteriously ages in reverse, meeting impossible challenges along the way. If that vaguely sounds a bit Forrest Gumpish, don't be surprised — Gump's Eric Roth penned this human epic too.

Unlike that life-affirming Gump, Button plays up the more surreal aspects of such an odd character. While he struggles to fit in with other kids as a wrinkled youngster, salty sea dogs mistake him for an old codger and escort Button to brothels, hire him to work the high seas and open his eyes to a world normally reserved for jaded adults. As such, we vicariously see it through the eyes of a child and believe me, getting young ain't all its cracked up to be.

While Pitt looks amazing (he had some stunning assistance from make-up and effects), director David Fincher (Zodiac) captures the more fantastical elements of the movie including a hilarious recurring storyline about a guy who keeps getting struck by lightning.

Ultimately, it's that culmination of bizarre subplots and side stories that distract from the emotional core and stretch Button out to a weighty sitting length. At 166 minutes, the real curious case of Benjamin Button is whether you can get to the end without a bathroom break.

metro life panel

Top musicians

- 1. Coldplay
- 2. Kanye West
- 3. AC/DC
- 4. Jonas Brothers
- 5. Guns N' Roses
- 6. Taylor Swift
- 7. Radiohead
- 8. Duffy
- 9. Estelle
- 10. Crystal Castles

Chris Martin from Coldplay

Top 2008 albums

- 1. Coldplay, Viva la Vida or Death And All His Friends
- 2. Bob Dylan, Tell Tale Signs — The Bootleg Series, Vol. 6
- 3. Metallica, Death Magnetic
- 4. Lil Wayne, Tha Carter III
- 5. Kathleen Edwards, Asking For Flowers

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

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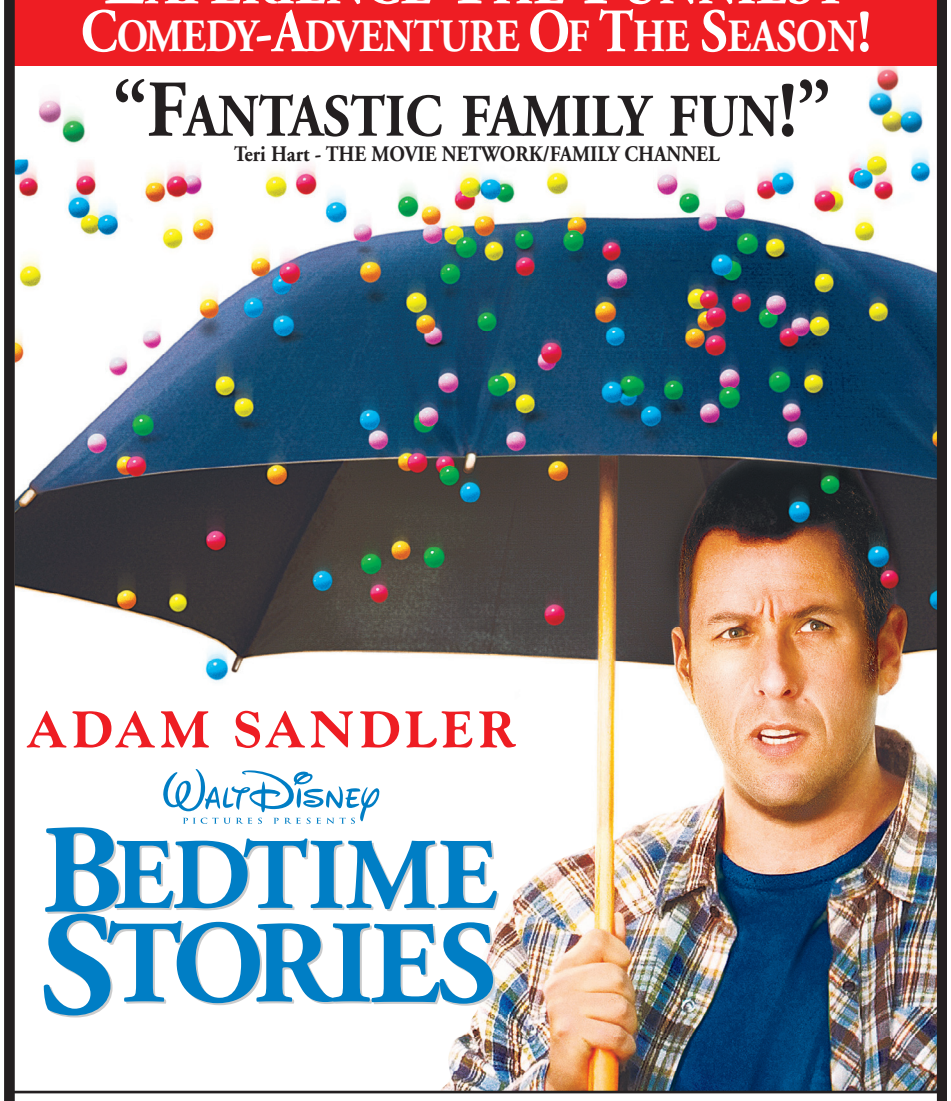

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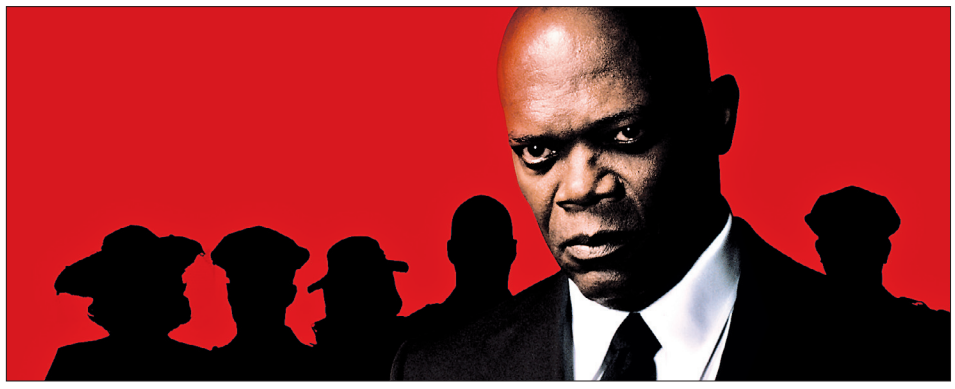
Jamie Spears gets a raise

Britney Spears's father, Jamie Spears, just got a salary increase: to about $75 an hour. A Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner boosted his payment by an additional $51,000 for acting as his daughter's conservator on Monday. **PEOPLE.COM**



Samuel L. Jackson plays the megalomaniac villain Octopus in The Spirit, which opens tomorrow.

A Spirited camp fest

The **Spirit**

Director: Frank Miller
Stars: Gabriel Macht, Scarlett Johansson
Classification: 14A
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Oddly enough, The Spirit reminds me of a cartoon version of James Bond. See, in the same sense that the British spy is an indestructible crime fighter driven largely off the insatiable appetite of women, so too is this comic book icon. In fact, replace 007's trademark martini with a glowing red tie and you might not be able to tell him apart from George Lazenby. Take that as you will.

Based on Will Eisner's legendary comic strip from the 1940s, a murdered cop (Gabriel Macht) mysteriously returns from death to become a hard-boiled masked crusader named The Spirit who vows to defend his city from criminals like the conspiring megalomaniac Octopus (Samuel L. Jackson).

Brought to life by Frank Miller (Sin City), the artist-turned-filmmaker gives the pulp fiction a slick, stylistic movie treatment that pays homage to the starkness of mid-20th century film noir. Indeed, by giving The Spirit the same effects-heavy comic book look that he and Robert Rodriguez mastered in Sin City, this film is — if nothing else — stunning to watch.

For some however, The Spirit's stark characters and extreme dialogue will be a campy turn off. After all, there's no subtlety in a flick that features such lines as "shut up and bleed" and "I'm going to kill you all kinds of dead."

In the end, the problem with The Spirit is that to make a great film you need more than just a slick cinematographer and a few catchy quips.

Metro's **2008**

metro life panel

Top cookbooks

1. The Complete Canadian Living Baking Book, by Elizabeth Baird and The Canadian Living Test Kitchen
2. Just 5 Things: Easy Gourmet Cooking with just a Handful of Ingredients, by Rachel Lane
3. David Rocco's Dolce Vita, by David Rocco
4. In the Kitchen with Anna: New Ways with the Classics, by Anna Olson
5. Friday Night Dinners, by Bonnie Stern

Top cooking shows

1. Jamie at Home with Jamie Oliver
2. Iron Chef America
3. The F Word with Gordon Ramsay
4. Restaurant Makeover
5. Nigella Feasts with Nigella Lawson

Top designers

1. Anna Kosturova
2. Kimberley Newport-Mimran (Pink Tartan label)
3. Philippe Dubuc
4. David Dixon
5. Denis Gagnon

Top eco-products

1. Reusable shopping bag
2. Buying local grown food
3. Taking transit
4. Compact florescent lights
5. Reusable water bottle

Top T.O. concerts

1. Madonna, Air Canada Centre
2. AC/DC, Rogers Centre
3. Coldplay, Air Canada Centre
4. Neil Young & Wilco, Air Canada Centre
5. Leonard Cohen, Sony Centre

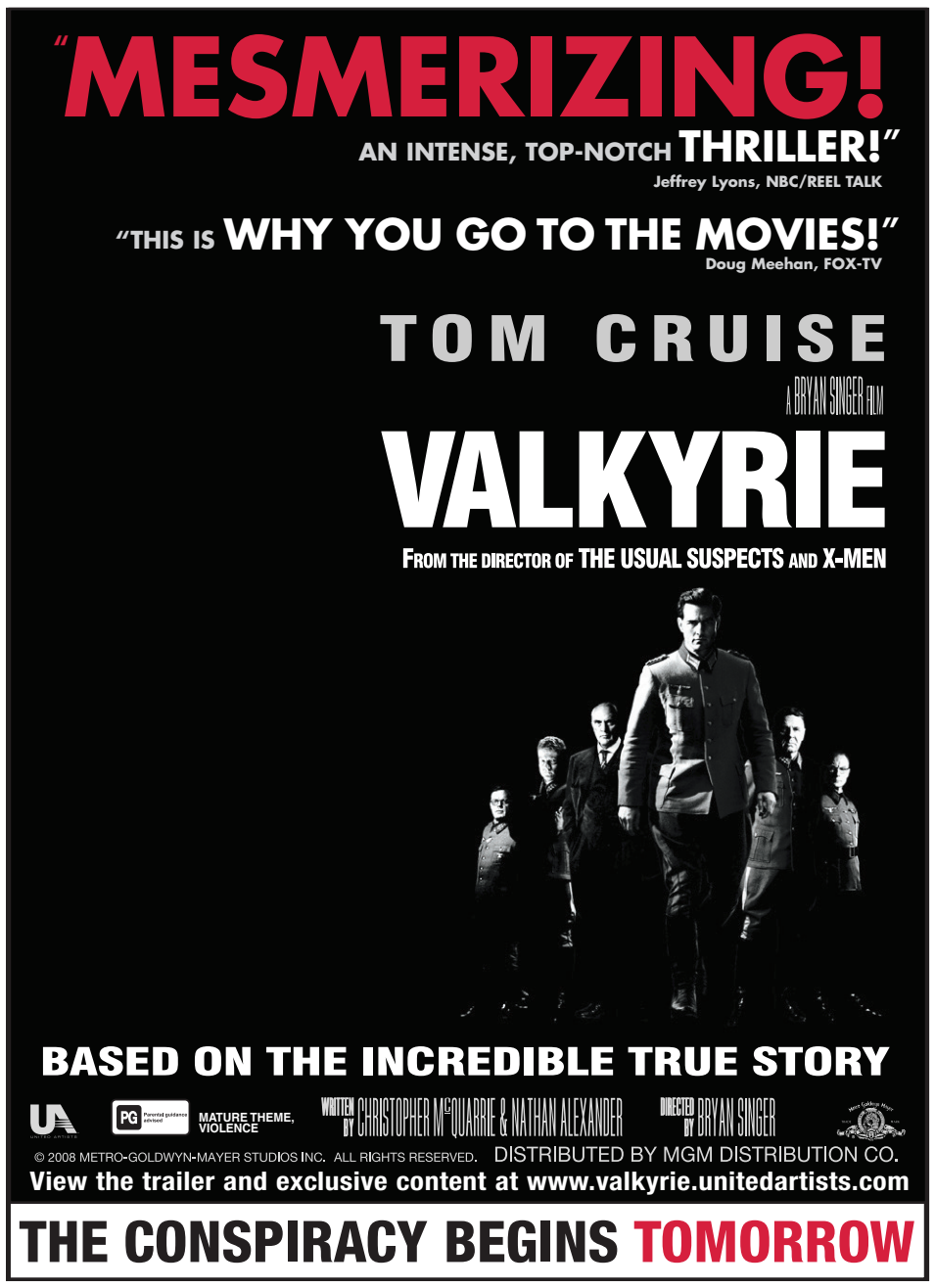
Top books

1. The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream, by Barack Obama
2. The Tales of Beedle the Bard, by J. K. Rowling
3. Remember Me?, by Sophie Kinsella
4. Breaking Dawn, by Stephenie Meyer
5. The Last Lecture, by Randy Pausch

Top health stories

1. Foods that help fight the flu
2. Eat more antioxidants to fight illness
3. People connect more through technology than in-person
4. Fast eaters are more likely to be obese
5. Tooth decay can be transmitted

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS



Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | Rainbow Cinemas | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM WED., DEC. 24 TO THURS., DEC. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

DOWNTOWN

CARLTON
20 Carlton St., 416-598-2309

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Wed 1:45-3:50-6:40 Thu 3:50-6:40-9
Canvas (STC) Wed 1:55-4:30-7:20 Thu 4:30-7:20-10
A Christmas Tale (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Wed 3:30-6:30 Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Wed 1:25-4:15-7 Thu 4:15-7-9:35
I Can't Think Straight (14A) Wed 2-4:45-7:30 Thu 4:45-7:30-9:55
I've Loved You So Long (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Wed 1:30-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-9:45
Religulous (14A) Wed 1:50-4:40-7:15 Thu 4:40-7:15-9:50
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Wed 1:20-4-6:50 Thu 4-6:50-9:20
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (14A) Wed 1:40-3:45-6:45 Thu 3:45-6:45-9:10

CUMBERLAND CINEMAS
159 Cumberland Ave., 416-646-0444

Rachel Getting Married (14A) Wed 1:20-4:20-7:15 Thu 4:20-7:15-10:15
The Reader (14A) Wed 12:30-2-3:30-5-6:30-8 Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) Wed 1-4-7 No Passes Thu 3:45-6:45-10
The Wrestler (14A) Thu 4-7-9:45

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-4:10-6:50-9:20 Thu 1:10-3:45-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-4-8 No Passes Thu 2:15-6:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Wed 12:30-2:15-3:30-5:15-6:30-8-9:30-10:45 No Passes Thu 9:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15
Frost/Nixon (PG) Wed 1-4-7-10 Thu 12:30-3:20-6:55-9:45
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Wed 12:40-1:40-3:40-4:40-6:40-7:40-9:40-10:40 No Passes Thu 12:40-1:40-3:40-4:40-6:40-7:40-9:40-10:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1:10-3:45-6:10-9
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50
Milk (14A) Wed 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20 Thu 12:20-3:30-7:10-10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 12:20-3:10-6:45-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10 Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:45
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-10
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:30
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:15-3:20-6:20-9:10 Thu 12:10-3:10-6:20-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Wed 1:50-5-7:45-10:25

MARKET SQUARE
80 Front St., 416-494-9371

Bedtime Stories (G) Thu 5-7:15-9:30
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:30-2:40-4:50-7
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Thu 4:30-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Wed 1:15-3:50-6:55
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1-3:10-5:15-7:25
Marley & Me (PG) Thu 3:50-6:45-9:15
Seven Pounds (14A) Wed 1:10-4-6:50 Thu 4-6:50-9:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Wed 12:20-2:30-4:45-7 Thu 4:45-7-9
Yes Man (PG) Wed 1:20-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-9:35

VARSITY
55 Bloor St. W., 416-961-6304

Australia (PG) Wed 1-4:30-8 Thu 1-5-9
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-4:30-8:30 No Passes Thu 12:45-4:45-8:45
Doubt (PG) Wed-Thu 12:50-1:05-3:40-4:25-6:30-7:15-9:20-9:55
Frost/Nixon (PG) Wed 12:10-12:40-3:10-4-6:40-7:10-9:40-10:15 Thu 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:50
Milk (14A) Wed 12-12:20-12:45-3:20-3:35-3:50-6:20-6:45-7-9:35-9:50-10:20 Thu 12-12:20-3:20-3:50-6:20-7-9:40-10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:05-6:35-6:50-9:15-9:30 Thu 12:40-1:15-3:30-4:05-6:35-6:50-9:15-9:30
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed-Thu 12:15-1:10-3:15-4:10-6:25-7:20-9:05-10:10

CANADA SQUARE
2200 Yonge St., 416-646-0444

Australia (PG) Thu 4:20-8
Bolt (PG) Thu 4:30-7:10-9:40
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Wed 1:30-4:20-7:10
Changeling (14A) Wed 12:40-3:50-7
I've Loved You So Long (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Wed 1:20-4:10-6:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Thu 4-6:50-9:10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 1:10-4-6:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Thu 4:10-7-9:30
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Wed 1-3:40-6:30
Role Models (14A) Wed 1:40-4:30-7:20
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:40-7:20-10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30 No Passes Thu 5:10-7:30-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:50-4:40-7:40 Thu 3:50-6:40-9:20
Twilight (PG) Thu 3:40-6:30-9:25

YONGE-EGLINTON CENTRE
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236

Australia (PG) Wed 12:30-4:20-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:50-4:30-7:05-9:40
Bolt (PG) Wed 1:50-4:40-7:10-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-4:20-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 1:40-4:30-7:20-9:45-10:10 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:10
Doubt (PG) Thu 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:30-4:10-7:30-10 Thu 1:30-4:05-7:20-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1:05-3:30-6:40
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:20-4:15-7:40-10:30
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:20-4:15-7:40-10:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:40-3:50-7:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:50-7:15-10:20
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:50
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-3:40-7:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4-7-10

YONGE & DUNDAS 24
10 Dundas St East, 416-977-2642

Australia (PG) Wed 1:05-2:05-4:30-5:30-8-9 Thu 10:30-2:30-6:15-9:45
Bedtime Stories (G) Special Engagement Thu 10:45-11:45-12:15-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:45-4:05-4:15-5:15-6:15-6:45-7:15-7:45-8:45-9:15-9:45-10:15-11
Burn After Reading (14A) Wed 12:05-2:20-4:35-7:05-9:35
Changeling (14A) Wed 1:20-7
Doubt (PG) Thu 10:30-11:30-1:15-2:15-4-5-6:45-7:45-9:25-10:25
Flash of Genius (PG) Wed 2:35-5:05
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12-12:45-1:30-2:30-3:15-3:45-5-5:30-6-7:15-7:45-8:15-9:30-10-10:30 Thu 11-12-1:30-2:40-3:40-5-6-7:30-8:15-9:45-10:30
Ghajini (STC) Thu 10:45-2:45-6:30-10:15
JCVD (14A) Wed 2-5:30-8-10:15 Thu 11:30-2-5:30-8-10:15
Let the Right One In (14A) Wed 7:45
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Wed 1:25-4:45-7:40-10:45
RocknRolla (14A) Wed 4:25-10:04
Role Models (14A) Wed-Thu 12:30-2:45-5:10-7:55-10:35
Seven Pounds (14A) Special Engagement Wed 12-12:40-1:40-2:20-3-3:40-4:40-5:20-6-6:40-7:40-8:20-9-9:40-10:40 Special Engagement Thu 10:40-11:20-12-12:40-1:40-2:20-3-3:40-4:40-5:20-6-6:40-7:40-8:20-9-9:40-10:40-11:10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed 1:20-2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40 Thu 11:15-1:20-2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Wed 10:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Wed 12:20-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:05-6:25-7:25-9-10 Special Engagement Thu 11:10-12:20-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:05-6:25-7:25-9-10
Yes Man (PG) Special Engagement Wed 12-12:45-1:15-2-2:45-3:30-4-4:45-5:30-6-6:45-7:30-8:15-8:45-9:30-10:15-10:45 Thu 10:30-11:15-12-12:45-1:15-2-2:45-3:30-4-4:45-5:30-6-6:45-7:30-8:15-8:45-9:30-10:15-10:45-11:15

WEST END

ALBION CINEMAS
1530 Albion Rd., 416-742-3456

Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Wed 11:45-3-6:30-10 Thu 11:30-2:45-6:15-9:45
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Wed-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45

QUEENSWAY
1025 The Queensway, 416-503-0424

Australia (PG) Wed 12:15-4:15-8:10 Thu 8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:45-3:50-7-9:45
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:15 Thu 12:20-3:45-6:45-9:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 2:15-6:30-10:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:55-1:30-3:55-4:40-6:55-7:40-9:50-10:40 No Passes Thu 2-5-7:50-10:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 1:30-4:15-7:15-10
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:30-3:05-6:10-8:50 Thu 1:10-3:35-6:20-9
Frost/Nixon (PG) Wed 1:20-4:35-7:45-10:45 Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:55
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:20 Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40
Milk (14A) Wed 12:05-3:10-6:20-9:35 Thu 1:15-4:30-7:35-10:35
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 1:25-4:25-7:05-10:05
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 12:35-3:35-6:30-9:25 Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:25
Role Models (14A) Wed 12:40-3:25-6:15-9
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:20-3:30-6:50-10:10 No Passes Thu 1:4:10-7:20-10:30
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed 12:10-3:15-6:35-9:55 Thu 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:40
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:30 No Passes Thu 12:10-3:15-6:35-9:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 12:25-3:45-7:10-10:25
Twilight (PG) Wed 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:35 Thu 12-3-6:10-9:20
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:1:35-4-4:30-7-7:35-10-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50

WOODBINE CENTRE
500 Rexdale Blvd., 416-213-1998

Bedtime Stories (G) Thu 3:30-7:15-9:25
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:30-2:40-4:55-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Thu 4:30-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Wed 1:20-4:10-7 Thu 4:10-7-9:30
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:55-3:10-5:20-7:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:40-2:50-5
Marley & Me (PG) Thu 3:40-7:05-9:40
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 7:05
Seven Pounds (14A) Wed 1:3:50-6:45 Thu 3:50-6:45-9:35
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:05-6:55-9:15
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Wed 12:35-2:45-5-7:05
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:45-3:45-6:50
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:45-6:50-9:25
Yes Man (PG) Wed 1:15-3:55-6:55 Thu 3:55-6:55-9:20

EAST END

BEACH CINEMAS
1651 Queen St. E., 416-699-5971

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30
Bolt (PG) Wed 1:30-4:20-6:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:20-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 1:45-4:30-7:15 No Passes Thu 4:30-7:15-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:20-3:45-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:45-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:10-3:30-6:40
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1-4-7 No Passes Thu 4-7-10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 2-4:45-7:30 No Passes Thu 4:45-7:30-10:10

FOX THEATRE
2236 Queen St. E., 416-691-7330

Listings not available at press time.

NORTH YORK

SHEPPARD GRANDE
4861 Yonge St., 416-590-9974

Australia (PG) Wed 12:35-4-7:45
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:30-4-6:45-9:15
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Wed 1:10-3:45-6:30
Changeling (14A) Wed 12:45-4:10-7:15
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 1-4:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:45
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:20-4:10-7:10
Milk (14A) Wed 1-3:50-7 Thu 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:10
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Wed 1:30-5 Thu 1:15-5-8:45
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-7:10 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:20
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed 12:40-1:20-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20 Thu 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:50-3:20-6:20 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:20-6:20-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:50-4:30-7:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:30

EMPRESS WALK
5095 Yonge St., 416-223-9550

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed 1:15-3:50-6:25-9:05 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 1:45-4:25-7
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:20-2:15-3:55-5:15-6:40-7:50-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:50-4:40-7:20-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:10-3:45-6:8-55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:40-4:10-6:40-9:20
Frost/Nixon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-2:15-4:20-5:10-7:15-8-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1-3:25-6:05
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 8:20
Quantum of Solace (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:25-4-6:35-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2:10-4:45-7:40-10:15
The Reader (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:45-3:35-6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:10
The Spirit (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2-4:50-7:30-10:20
Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:50-3:30-6:10-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:40
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:05-2-3:40-5-6:30-7:45-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-2:20-4-5-6:50-7:45-9:30-10:30

SILVERCITY YORKDALE 6
3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:15-4:10-7-9:50
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:55-3:45-6:50 Thu 1-3:50-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 2:15-6:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:15
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:50-4:40-7:40 Thu 2-4:40-7:15-9:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:40-3:50-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Role Models (14A) Wed 1:40-4:50-7:40-10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-7:10 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:20
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed 12:40-1:20-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20 Thu 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 1:10-4:10-6:45-9:20 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9
Twilight (PG) Wed-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:40
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-10

SILVERCITY FAIRVIEW
1800 Sheppard Ace. E., 416-644-7746

Bolt (PG) Wed-Thu 1:30-4:50-7:20-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:40-4:40-8:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4-7:30-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) Wed-Thu 1:50-4:30-6:50-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-7:10-10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:10-4:10-7:40-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 1:10-4:10-6:45-9:20 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9
Twilight (PG) Wed-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:40
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-10

SCARBOROUGH

COLISEUM SCARBOROUGH
300 Borough Dr., 416-290-5217

Bolt (PG) Wed 12-2:25-4:50-7:20 Thu 4:50-7:20-9:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3:50-4:40-7:40-8:30
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:40-3:30-6:55 Thu 3:30-6:55-9:55
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 3:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Role Models (14A) Wed 12:20-6:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30 No Passes Thu 3:40-4:30-7:30-9:40-10:30
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4-7-10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:25-3:25-6:10 No Passes Thu 3:25-6:10-9:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 12:50-3:50-6:40
Twilight (PG) Wed 1:15-4:15-7:15 Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15
Vaaranam Aayiram (in Tamil) (14A) Wed 2:15-6:05
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:20-7:20-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 12:15-12:45-3:15-3:45-6:20-6:50 No Passes Thu 3:45-6:20-6:50-9:50

EGLINTON TOWN CENTRE
1901 Eglinton Ave. E., 416-752-4494

Australia (PG) Wed 12:40-4:50-8:45
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:20-3:10-6:50-9:45
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:35 Thu 12:25-3:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 1-2-4:50-6-8:45-10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:05-1:05-3:45-4:45-6:35-7:35-9:20-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:25-4:20-7:40-10:30
Doubt (PG) Thu 12:40-3:25-6:40-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:10-3-6:20-8:50 Thu 12:10-2:55-7:05-9:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:20-2:50
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:15-1:15-3:15-4:15-7:25-10:20
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 6:30-9:05
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20-10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 12:25-3:20-6:50-9:40 Thu 1:10-4-7-9:55
Role Models (14A) Wed 12:50-3:50-7-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:30-1-3:40-4-6:45-7:15-9:50-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:50-6:30-7:10-9:40-10:25
The Spirit (14A) Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:15
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12-2:40-6:15-8:55 No Passes Thu 12:05-2:40-6:35-9:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:10-4:15-7:10-10:05
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:35-3:35-6:25-9:15 Thu 6:20-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:35-3:40-6:55-10:05
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 12:15-1:15-3:10-4:10-6:40-7:40-9:25-10:30 No Passes Thu 12-12:45-2:45-3:30-6:15-7:15-9:10-10:10

401 & MORNINGSIDE
785 Milner Ave., 416-281-2226

Australia (PG) Wed 2-6:30
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4-6:50-9:25
Bolt (PG) Wed 1:30-4-6:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:15-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:35-1:15-3:15-4:35-6:25-7:20 No Passes Thu 4:40-7:30-10:15
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:45-4:45-7:45 Thu 4:50-7:50-10:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:10-2:30-4:55-7:10 Thu 2:15-4:25
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:15-6:15-9:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1-3:40-6:40 Thu 6:40-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-7 No Passes Thu 3:25-7:10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 2:45-7:15-10:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:25 No Passes Thu 2:30-5:7:20-9:40
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:40-3:30-6:15
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3-6:30-9:50
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:20-4:15-7:35 No Passes Thu 3:45-7:40-10:20

WOODSIDE CINEMAS
1571 Sandhurst Circle, 416-299-3456

Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Wed 11:45-3-6:30-10 Thu 11:30-2:45-6:15-9:45
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Wed-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45

PEEL REGION

CINÉ STARZ
377 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E., 905-290-2401

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:30-1:45-3:20-4:30-6:30-7:20-9:15-10
Bolt (PG) Wed-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:30-1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:30-9:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Wed-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12-3-6:20-9 Thu 12-3
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 1:50-4:30-7-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10
Role Models (14A) Wed 1:45-4:20-7:20-10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:50-4:45-6:20-8-9:10-10:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:20
Twilight (PG) Wed-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-1:40-3:40-4:50-6:40-7:40-9:40-10:30

COLISEUM 10
309 Rathburn Rd., 905-275-3456

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:30-1:45-3:20-4:30-6:30-7:20-9:15-10
Bolt (PG) Wed-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:30-1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:30-9:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15
Four Christmases (PG) Wed-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:30-3:50-6:50 Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:50-3:45-6:25
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:55-7:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:35-4:25-7:05
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1:10-4:05-7 No Passes Thu 4:05-7:05-9:55
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:35-3:55-6:40 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:40-9:20
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:45-4:10-7:20
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:30-7:30-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:20-4:20-7:15 No Passes Thu 4:20-7:15-10:15

SILVERCITY MISSISSAUGA
3055 Vega Blvd., 905-569-3373

Australia (PG) Wed 1:10-4:50
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 3:50-4:30-6:50-7:25-9:25-10
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-7:10 Thu 3:40
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Wed 1:50-4:10-7:40
Doubt (PG) Thu 4:10-7:10-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 2-5-6:50-7:50 Thu 5-7:50-10:10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Wed 1:40-4:40-7:30 Thu 4:40-7:30-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:50-3:50-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:30-4:50-6:30-7:40-9:20-10:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:40-1:20-3:40-4:20-6:40-7:20 No Passes Thu 4:20-6:40-7:20-9:40-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 1-4-7 No Passes Thu 4-7-9:30

SQUARE ONE
100 City Centre Dr., 905-275-2640

Australia (PG) Stadium Seating Wed 12:55-2-4:20-5:30-7:50
Chakk de Phatte (PG) Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Wed 1:45-4:50-8
Changeling (14A) Stadium Seating Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating, THX Thu 5:35-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 4:10-7:50
Delgo (PG) Stadium Seating Wed 2:10-4:40
Doubt (PG) Stadium Seating Thu 5-7:40-10:20
Ghajini (STC) Sub-Titled, Stadium Seating Thu 5:20-9:20
Hassan and Morcos (STC) Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Wed 7
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 3:40-4:30-6:40-7:20-9:30-10:10
Seven Pounds (14A) Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 1-1:30-3:50-4:30-6:50-7:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 3:50-4:40-6:50-7:30-9:40-10:30
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Stadium Seating Wed 12:50-1:20-3:40-4:15-6:40-7:20 Stadium Seating Thu 4-7-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Stadium Seating Wed 2:20-5-7:40
Valkyrie (PG) Stadium Seating Thu 4:20-7:10-10

NORTH

5 DRIVE-IN
2331 Ninth Line, 905-257-8272

AURORA CINEMAS
15460 Bayview Ave., 905-841-1789

Australia (PG) Wed 2:15-6
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4-6:50-9:30
Bolt (PG) Wed 1-3:45-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 6:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 1:45-4:45-7:30 No Passes Thu 3:50-6:45-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 2-4:30-7:40 Thu 4:40-7:30-9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1:10-3:30-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:30-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:50-4-7:10 No Passes Thu 3:40-7:10-10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:30-7:40-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:10-6:40 No Passes Thu 3:45-6:20-9
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:45-3:50-7
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:10-7:20-10:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 12:40-3:40-6:50 No Passes Thu 4:20-7:10-10

COLOSSUS 19
3555 Hwy 7 West, 905-851-1001

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:45-1:50-3:45-4:40-6:40-7:25-9:20-10:05
Changeling (14A) Wed 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-2:15-4-6:30-8-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:40-1:10-3:40-4:20-6:50-7:40-9:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 2-5-8:10-11
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10
Doubt (PG) Thu 1:05-4:05-6:55-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:25-4-7:25-9:55 Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Wed 12-3-6:30-9:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:10-3:10-6:15-8:40 Thu 12:15-3
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-1:20-3:30-4:15-6:35-7:20-9:30-10:15
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 12:50-3:50-7:10-9:45
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Wed 2-5-8-10:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 12:45-3:45-6:20-9 Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:45
Role Models (14A) Wed 1:40-4:50-7:40-10:10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1-1:30-4:10-4:40-7:20-7:50-10:30-11 No Passes Thu 1-4:20-6:50-7:40-10-10:50
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:40
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:10-4:10-7-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:35
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:15-3:15-6:45-9:40 Thu 12:10-3:10-6:10-9:10
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 12:30-1:20-3:30-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:40 No Passes Thu 12:40-1:30-3:40-4:30-6:45-7:30-9:40-10:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Wed 1:50-4:50-8:10-10:45

ELGIN MILLS 10
10909 Yonge St., 905-770-6998

Australia (PG) Wed 12:50-4:30-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 3:20-7-9:40
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:20-3:10-7 Thu 3:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:20-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:40-3:20-7:20 Thu 4:10-7:40-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:20-3:40-7:40 Thu 6:50-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Sat-Wed 12-3:50
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:

Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | Rainbow Cinemas | Independent

Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM WED., DEC. 24 TO THURS., DEC. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Lakeview Terrace (14A) Wed 2:10-4:40-7:10
Milk (14A) Wed 1:45-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Wed 2:20-4:25-7
Nights in Rodanthe (PG) Wed 1:40-4:05-6:25
Passchendaele (14A) Wed 3:10-6:05
Pride and Glory (14A) Wed 1:25-4:10-6:55
Quarantine (18A) Wed 3:05-5:20-7:25
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Wed 1:50-4:55-7:40
Religulous (14A) Wed 2:15-4:35-7:10
RocknRolla (14A) Wed 3:15-6
The Secret Life of Bees (14A) Wed 2-4:35-7:30
Sex Drive (18A) Wed 1:55-4:45-7:35
Step Brothers (14A) Wed 2:40-5:10-7:50
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Wed 1:55-4:40-7:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Special Engagement Wed 1:45-2:45-4:15-5:45-7:45
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (14A) Wed 2:50-5:05-7:20

PROMENADE MALL
1 Promenade Circle, 416-494-9371

Bedtime Stories (G) Thu 1:10-3:15-5:20-7:25-9:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Thu 1:30-4:30-8:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Wed 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:25
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:10-3:15-5:20-7:25-9:20
Marley & Me (PG) Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:25
Seven Pounds (14A) Wed-Thu 1-4-7-9:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Wed-Thu 12:50-3-5-7:10-9:10
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:15
Yes Man (PG) Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:45-9

SILVERCITY NEWMARKET
18151 Yonge St., 905-953-2792

Australia (PG) Wed 12-4-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:25-7:20-10:20
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:40-4:15-7:15 Thu 4:15-7:15-10:10
Changeling (14A) Wed 11:50-3:10-6:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4-5:30-8-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 1-1:30-4:05-4:30-6:55-7:30 No Passes Thu 4:05-6:55-9:55
Doubt (PG) Thu 4:35-7:35-10:35
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45 Thu 3:45-6:45-9:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 11:55-2:20-5:15-8:05
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:20-4:45-6:50-9:50
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 1:45-4:40-7:35
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 12:55-3:55-6:40 Thu 3:55-6:40-9:40
Role Models (14A) Wed 2-5:10-8:10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:20-3:50-7:05-10:05 No Passes Wed 12:20-3:50-7:05 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:05-10:05
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:40-7:45-10:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 11:45-2:30-5:20-7:40 No Passes Thu 5:20-7:40-10:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 12:50-3:40-6:50
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:15-3:30-6:35 Thu 3:30-6:35-9:45
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:40-7:10-10:25
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:10-1:50-4:10-4:45-7:50 No Passes Thu 4:10-7:7:50-10-10:40

SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL
8771 Yonge St., 905-709-3199

Australia (PG) Wed 1:15-5-9:10
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 11:50-2:30-5:15-8-10:40
Bolt (PG) Wed 1-3:50-7-9:30 Thu 11:30-2-4:40-7:20-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-2:20-4:20-6:30-8:15-10:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 1:20-2-4-4:40-6:30-7:05-9:20-9:40 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:50-7:50-10:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 12:50-3:50-6:55-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:40-4:20-7:20-10 Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1:35-4:05
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:10-3:30-6:40-9:40
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 1:05-4:25-7:40-10:25
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:10 Thu 12:40-3:45-6:45-9:30
Role Models (14A) Wed 12:50-7:10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:20-3:30-6:50-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:40-7:10:15
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:30-3:20-6:10-9 No Passes Thu 11:40-2:10-5-7:40-10:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 3:55-9:55
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:50
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 1-4-6:50-10

HALTON

SILVERCITY BURLINGTON 8
1250 Brant St., 416-646-0444

Australia (PG) Wed 2-6:30
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:25-7:25-10:25
Bolt (PG) Wed 1:05-4:05-7 Thu 4:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:15 No Passes Thu 4:15-7:05-10:05
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:45-6:45-9:40
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 1:25-4:25-7:25
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1-4-7 Thu 7-10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1-4-7:10 No Passes Thu 4-7:10-10:20
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:40-7:40-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 1:10-4:10-6:50 No Passes Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30
Twilight (PG) Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20 No Passes Thu 4:20-7:20-10:10

SILVERCITY OAKVILLE CINEMAS
3531 Wyecroft Road, 905 827-7173

Australia (PG) Wed 2-6:30
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:40-3:10-6:50 Thu 3:10-6:50-9:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3:40-8 No Passes Thu 4:30-9
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 1:20-4-7:20 No Passes Thu 4-7:20-9:55
Doubt (PG) Thu 5-7:40-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:40-2-4:10-5-7:30-7:40 Thu 4:10-7:30-9:40
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3-6:40-9:30
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1-1:30-4-4:20-6:40-7:40 Thu 4:20-7:40-10:15 **Seven Pounds** (14A) No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-7 No Passes Thu 3:30-7-10:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:50-3:20-6:55 No Passes Thu 3:20-6:55-9:20
Twilight (PG) Wed 1:30-1:50-4:30-4:40-7:10-7:25
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4-6:40-9:40
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:10-3:50-7:10 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:10-9:50

SILVERCITY BRAMPTON
50 Great Lakes, 905-789-6797

Australia (PG) Wed 12:50-5-9
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:45
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:40-3:25-6:45-9:25 Thu 12:45-3:25-6:45-9:25
Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (PG) Wed 1:30-4:45-8 Thu 6:10-10:25
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-4-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:30-1:40-3:40-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:40-7:20-10:30
Four Christmases (PG) Wed-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:20-9:15
Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Thu 1:30-5:30-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1-3:30-6:10-9 Thu 1-3:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-3:45-7:15-10:15
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:05
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:20-4:10-7-9:45
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Wed-Thu 1:10-5:10-9:30
Role Models (14A) Wed 1:15-3:45-6:15-9:20
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 12:55-4-7:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:15-4:20-7:40-10:45
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3-6:40-9:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:30
Twilight (PG) Wed-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-4:15-7:10-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:10

WINSTON CHURCHILL
2081 Winston Park Dr., 905-829-2009

Changeling (14A) Wed 12:35-3:45-7:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Wed 12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15
Ghajini (STC) Sub-Titled Wed 1:40-4:55-8:45
Milk (14A) Wed 1:05-1:45-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:35-9:55
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Wed 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 12:45-1:30-2:15-3:30-4:15-5-6:15-7-7:45-9
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (STC) Sub-Titled Wed 2-5:30-9
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Wed 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05
Role Models (14A) Wed 12:30-3-5:40-8-10:25
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Wed 1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:55-4:20-7:10-9:40
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:15-9:30
Yes Man (PG) Special Engagement Wed 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10

DURHAM

AJAX
248 Kingston Rd. E, 905-426-7772

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 3:30-7:25-9:55
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:40-4:30-7:15
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-7:05 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:05-10
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:55-3:25-6:35 Thu 3:25-6:35-9:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 12:30-2:45-5-7:25
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 4:10-6:55-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:20-4:10-6:50
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1-4-7:10 No Passes Thu 4-7:10-10:10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:30-7:15-10:05
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:20 No Passes Thu 2:35-4:55-7:20-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 1:10-4:25-7:35
Twilight (PG) Wed 12:45-3:45-6:40
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:45-6:40-9:30
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 1:30-4:20-7 No Passes Thu 4:20-7-9:45

PICKERING 8
1355 Kingston Rd., 416-646-0444

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:10-7-9:30
Bolt (PG) Wed 12:10-4:10-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:15-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Wed 12:30-3-40-6:45
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 1:10-4:20-7:20
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:40-6:45-9:45
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Wed 1-4-7:15 No Passes Thu 4-7:15-10:15
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:20-7:20-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Wed 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:25 No Passes Thu 4:50-7:25-9:55
Twilight (PG) Wed 1:15-4:15-7
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:50-7:10-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Wed 12:45-3:30-6:50 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:50-9:40

WHITBY 24
75 Consumers Dr., 905-665-7210

Australia Wed 12-3:30-7-8:30 Thu 12-3:30-7-10:25
Bedtime Stories (G) Special Engagement Thu 10:30-12-12:45-2:30-3:15-5-5:45-7:30-8:15-10-10:40
Bolt (PG) Wed 1:20-3:30-6:15
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) Digital Wed 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25 Digital Thu 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25
Changeling (14A) Wed 12:45-4-7-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Special Engagement Thu 10:30-12:30-2-4-5:30-7:30-9:15-11
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Wed 12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15 Thu 11:30-1:45-4:15-6:45-8-9:15-10:30
Doubt (PG) Special Engagement Thu 12-2:35-5-7:35-10
Four Christmases (PG) Wed 12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:20-8:20-9:40 Thu 12:30-2:45-5:15-7:20-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Wed 1:30-3:40-5:45-8 Thu 11:10-1:30-3:40-5:45
Marley & Me (PG) Special Engagement Thu 10:45-11:45-1:30-2:30-4:15-5:15-7-8-9:45-10:45
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Wed 12-2:50-5:15-7:45-9:45
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Wed 12:10-4:50-9:45
Quantum of Solace (PG) Wed 12:10-2-2:45-4:40-5:30-7:30-8:15-9:50 Thu 11:15-2-4:40-7:30-9:50
Role Models (14A) Wed 12:10-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) Special Engagement Wed 1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-9:50 Special Engagement Thu 10:45-11:30-1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-10:10:40
The Spirit (14A) Special Engagement Thu 10:40-12-1-2:30-3:30-5-6-7:30-8:30-10-11
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Special Engagement Wed 12:15-12:45-2:40-3:10-5-5:30-7:15-7:45-9:30 Special Engagement Thu 12:15-4:50-7:15-9:30
Transporter 3 (14A) Wed 2:35-7:20
Twilight (PG) Wed 1-1:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-9:50 Thu 11-1:45-7:45-10:30
Valkyrie (PG) Special Engagement Thu 11:45-2:30-5:15-8:10-10:50
Yes Man (PG) Special Engagement Wed 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20 Special Engagement Thu 10:35-11:10-11:50-1:10-1:50-2:20-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10:10-10:40

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Spade donates cash for guns
The Phoenix Police Department has gotten some high-powered goodies courtesy of actor David Spade. The one-time Phoenix resident donated US$100,000 so that the department can buy approximately 50 AR-15 rifles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro life panel

Top 2008 TV actors

Hall

- 1. Michael C. Hall (Dexter)
- 2. Jeremy Piven (Entourage)
- 3. Kat Deeley (So You Think You Can Dance U.S.)
- 4. Shannon Tweed (Gene Simmons Family Jewels)
- 5. Michael Hogan (Battlestar Galactica)
- 6. Jon Hamm (Mad Men)
- 7. Spencer Rice (Kenny Vs. Spenny)
- 8. Elizabeth Moss (Mad Men)
- 9. John Slattery (Mad Men)
- 10. Christina Hendricks (Mad Men)

Top 2008 TV shows

- 1. So You Think You Can Dance (Canada)
- 2. Dexter
- 3. So You Think You Can Dance (U.S.)
- 4. Mad Men
- 5. Battlestar Galactica
- 6. Gene Simmons' Family Jewels
- 7. South Park
- 8. Entourage
- 9. Kenny Vs. Spenny
- 10. Metalocalypse

SOURCE: AS VOTED BY METRO LIFE PANEL MEMBERS

Brancato not guilty in NYC cop killing

COURT A slain police officer's sister reacted with disgust after a jury cleared a former actor on The Sopranos of her brother's killing during a botched burglary three years ago.

Lillo Brancato Jr. was convicted of a lesser charge of attempted burglary on Monday. He faces three to 15 years in prison, but could get credit for time served because he has been in jail nearly three years.

"What message is this sending out to the New York City police officers today? It's wrong," said Yolanda Rosa Nazario, sister of the victim.

Prosecutors said Brancato, 32, and Steven Armento broke into a basement apartment to steal prescription drugs after a night of drinking at a strip club in December 2005. Officer Daniel Enchautegui, who lived next door and was off duty, came out to investigate. Armento shot the officer. Armento was convicted of first degree murder earlier this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A heavy dose of reality on TV in 2009

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

THE FUTURE: Perhaps expecting more people stay home in 2009 to weather the anticipated economic storm, some networks are ramping up production on new shows to debut in the next 12 months. First there are the midseason premieres waiting to air starting in the new year: The return of Idol, Lost and 24, and cable hits like Nip/Tuck and Damages, plus new shows like The Beast on A&E, TNT's Trust Me, set in the advertising world, and United States Of Tara on Showtime, starring Toni Collette.

There are the supersized episodes of Celebrity Apprentice in March, and a deluge of reality shows coming from MTV — 16 in total, according to a Variety story, from producers such as Matt Stone and Trey Parker, and Sean Combs.

Oxygen has a dancing-plus-fitness reality title called Dance Your Ass Off, VH1 has Sober House, a Celebrity Rehab spin-off with Andy Dick and Rodney King, and Starz has Party Down, a comedy about a bunch of wannabes working for an L.A. catering company from Veronica Mars creator Rob Thomas.

HBO looks like it's doubling down, after a post-Sopranos ratings slump and an executive shake up, with new shows announced every day. There are two comedies — How To Make It In America and Bored To Death — and Cocaine Cowboys, a fictionalized remake of the 2006 documentary about Miami's blow trade.

On the other coast, HBO is turning another documentary — 1999's American Pimp — into Gentlemen Of Leisure, the story of a pimp in his 40s trying to get out of the business.

Finally, there's Hung, a new show from The Riches creator Dmitry Lipkin. It stars Thomas Jane as a high school basketball coach who tries to ride out economic hard times with his sole physical asset — the nature of which should be obvious from the show's title. "The show is very much about what's happening in the country, how people are trying to survive using what God had given them," Lipkin told the Hollywood Reporter.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Kenya talks to singer Fergie about make up, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

TO		Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/24/08		265	353	2	TVO	*The Old Curiosity Shop*				New Tricks		*The Philadelphia Story* ★★★★ (1940)	
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA)		Bones (HDTV PA)		Painkiller Jane	Bethlehem
		215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Italia, Canada		Bell-Christmas	We Need-Little	Silent Night	Christmas	Sing Christmas
		210	302	6	CBC	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed.						CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Murdoch Mysteries		Little Spirit: Christmas		City OnLine
		212	313	8	CTV	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Rita MacNeil's Christmas		*A Christmas Carol* ★★★ (1951, Fantasy) Alastair Sim.				News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	Tube Tales	TV Made, Do It	*To Be Fat Like Me* (2007, Docudrama) Kaley Cuoco.				Inside Hollywood		Midnight Mass
		137	763	13	TFO	Tout simple	Clipperton	Noël en choeur Le Choeur Saint-Laurent.		*Le Gosse* (1921, Comédie)		Le Gosse		Tout simple
		-	-	14	-	Kung Fu		Masoom		Writers in Exile		Kung Fu		Kung Fu
		213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Secret Santa* ★★ (2003, Drama) Jennie Garth.				*A Christmas Carol* ★★★ (1938, Fantasy)		
		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "Taxi" (HDTV)		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart, Donna Reed.						Xmas
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* ★★★ (2005, Fantasy)						News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		*Home for the Holidays* (2005, Drama) Sean Young.				Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		*Die Hard 2*
		-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Bones (HDTV PA)		Seinfeld	Two-Half Men	The Simpsons
		-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	*The Greatest Store in the World* (1999)			Christmas-Mormon Choir		Holly and Ivy: Crane		Renaissance
		297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	*The Flight Before Christmas*		The Story of Santa Claus		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two-Half Men
		296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
		298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	*Christmas*
news		502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Queen Elizabeth: Reign		National
		500	500	33	CNN	CNN Presents "Obama Revealed" Sen. Barack Obama.				Larry King Live		CNN Presents: After Jesus: First Christians		
		509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports		Asia Squawk Box		Cash Flow		On the Money		Russia Gamble
sports		405	417	22	net	Best Damn Top 50 Special		Sportsnet 10th Anniversary		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet 10th Anniversary		Sportsnet Con.
		400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre: Year in Review		College Football Sheraton Hawaii Bowl -- Hawaii vs. Notre Dame. (HDTV) From Honolulu. (Live)						
		411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
		417	406	81	SC	SuperCars	SuperCars	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)
family		551	542	25	YTV	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		He-Man, She-Ra Christmas		Weird Years	Martin Mystery	Martin Mystery	Mon. Warriors	Fries That?
		554	544	45	TEL	*Jack Frost*	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Looney Tunes Christmas		Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Daughter-Devil
		556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety		602	567	27	W	Friends	Will & Grace	Shopping Bags	Shopping Bags	*Borrowed Hearts* (1997, Drama) Roma Downey.				Maxed Out
		570	580	29	MM	The O.C. "The Rescue"		The O.C. "The Heights"		The O.C.		The O.C.		Video on Trial
		615	520	31	A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars
		700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Andrea Bocelli: Sacred Arias			Música Italiana	Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
		571	581	36	MMM	Fabulous Life Of...		Fabulous Life Of...		Fabulous Life Of...		All-Time Top 10 AC/DC.		Fabulous Life
		575	583	38	CMT	Donner Down	The Gift	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Paul Brandt's
		616	521	39	SHO	*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002, Docudrama), Ed Asner				Trailer Park Boys Christmas		Say Goodnight Bad Guys		*Trailer Park*
		620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Trans-Siberian Orchestra		Wingfield	Cmas Music	Christmas at the Concert Hall		Law & Order
		601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	X-Weighted		Real Housewives of OC		Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada
		522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Head Case"		Cities of the Underworld		In Search of Santa Claus		NCIS "Head Case"		Crime Stories
		625	548	44	COM	Jeff Dunham's Very Special Christmas Special				The Simpsons	South Park	Dennis Leary Merry F...'in		Colbert Cmas
		600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My Parents' House: Holidays		Holiday Windows 2008		Design Inc. Holiday		Holmes-Homes
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)			Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Nightmre Bfore*
		576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	*ATL* ★★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Tip "T.I." Harris, Lauren London.					Brother	Brother	Keyshia Cole
		627	528	50	SPC	*Trekkies 2* ★★ (2004, Documentary)				*Star Trek: The Motion Picture* ★★ (1979, Science Fiction)				
		581	566	52	MTV	Next	After	MTV News	Cribs	Exiled "Inside the Exile"		Exiled		MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	Frasier	Raymond	Raymond	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	The Nanny	Grace Under	Grace Under
		603	561	56	FOOD	Iron Chef America		Iron Chef America		Iron Chef America		Iron Chef America		Iron Chef Am.
		261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	*A Christmas Carol* ★★ (1984, Fantasy) George C. Scott.				Charlotte
		621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	Pink: etalk	Relative Madness		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		553	546	65	TRE	Toot Puddle	Nght Grdn	Emily Yeung	Franklin	Fourth King	Backyardigans	Comfy Couch	Sec Star-Left	Daniel Cook
		115	711	101	TVA	Km/h (N) (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	*Le Grincheux* ★★ (2000, Fantastique) Jim Carrey.				TVA 22 heures	La Victoire de l'amour a Noël	
		126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	Chine	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le Journal RDI	Le Téléjournal
		526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
		300	601	301	M1	*Eragon* ★★ (2006, Fantasy) Ed Speleers, Jeremy Irons.				*Night at the Museum* ★★ (2006, Fantasy) Ben Stiller.				*Mad Money*
		305	612	306	PIX	(7:10) *The Nutty Professor* ★★★ (1963, Comedy)				*Rat Race* ★★ (2001, Comedy) Rowan Atkinson.				*Hunt-Red-Oct.*

critics'corner

Borrowed Hearts
But its very concept is unsettling. A businessman (Eric McCormack) needs to pretend he's a family man to impress a potential client, so he asks an employee (Downey) and her daughter to pose as his wife and kid. Dude, if this guy is so narrow-minded as to discriminate against single people, you don't need his business. And sorry, the "Pretty Woman" ending doesn't make up for that plot point. 9 PM on W

It's a Wonderful Life
Yes, it was just on. But now that this 1946 holiday classic isn't being screened around the clock anymore, it doesn't hurt to give folks a couple of chances to watch it — especially on Christmas Eve. James Stewart is unforgettable as the financially ruined family man who wants to end it all ... until an apprentice angel (Henry Travers) shows him how much worse off the world would be without him. Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore also star. 7 PM on CBC

Britney dancing to a new beat
Britney Spears has reportedly parted ways with her long-term choreographers. The singer has worked with Wade Robson and Andre Fuentes since 1999 and 1998, respectively. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Hudson vows to stay a single girl

PEOPLE Kate Hudson informed the January issue of In Style that she's "made a conscious decision to try to stay single as long as possible," msn.com reports.

Still, it's suspected she's back with ex Owen Wilson, a mole maintains. "They've been quietly seeing each other and hooking up ... But I don't see it being a monogamous thing yet."

Hudson has said she does not believe people were meant to be monogamous.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Klum and Seal a pair of lovebirds

RELATIONSHIP Heidi Klum and Seal attended an intimate dinner party at West Hollywood's Chateau Marmont earlier this week, people.com reports. The couple sat on the hotel's patio, and acted "very cozy with each other," an onlooker says.

The pair sat at the table with five friends and laughed and chatted for hours. Klum sipped wine with one hand, while keeping the other firmly on Seal's knee. Every once in a while, Seal would lean over and kiss his wife on the cheek. Says the onlooker: "It was very sweet. METRO NEWS SERVICES

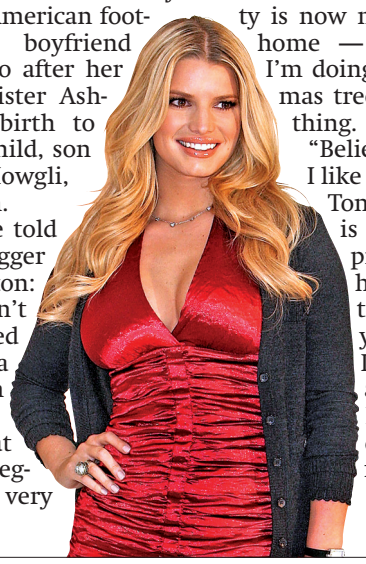
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Domestic Jessica wants a baby

PEOPLE Jessica Simpson is "actively trying" for a baby, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer is reportedly desperate to start a family with her American football star boyfriend Tony Romo after her younger sister Ashlee gave birth to her first child, son Bronx Mowgli, last month.

A source told gossip blogger Perez Hilton: "I wouldn't be surprised if Jessica makes an announcement that she's pregnant very, very soon."



Meanwhile, the singer has revealed that the festive period has domesticated her.

She said: "My personality is now more stay-at-home — right now I'm doing the Christmas tree and everything.

"Believe it or not, I like to bake pies. Tony's favourite is pumpkin pie and I haven't mastered that yet. Maybe I'm more of a baker — I like to make cakes, more fattening."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ritchie rebuffs rebound rumours

DATING Guy Ritchie is not dating Jemima Khan, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The RocknRolla director sparked rumours he was in a relationship with Jemima after the pair were seen attending a series of parties together over the last month, but it has now been claimed they are simply friends.

A source close to Guy said: "It's not romantic, they are both with the same PR company and the two times they have been together recently were at work events. They have always got along well and have known each other for years."

However, pals are still hoping their friendship might develop into romance: "Could they date in the future? I don't know. In the past they have only seen each other when they have been in relationships, so the thought of being romantic or dating has never had the opportunity to arise."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jackson in fine health: Doctor

PEOPLE Michael Jackson's representative has denied the singer is suffering from a potentially deadly genetic disease, insisting he is in "fine health," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 50-year-old singer's spokesman Dr. Tohme Tohme has dismissed claims made by biographer Ian Halperin that the Thriller star is close to death because he is battling inherited condition A1AD (alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency) which leaves sufferers without a protein needed to protect the lungs.

Tohme insists Michael is in such good health he is even planning a world tour and several TV appearances for 2009.

The representative said: "The wild allegations concerning Mr. Jackson's health are a total fabrication. Concerning this author's allegations, we would hope in the future that legitimate media will not continue to be exploited by such an obvious attempt to promote this unauthorized 'biography.'"

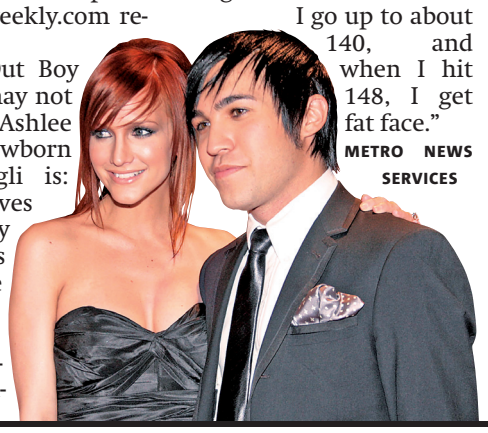
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pete dishes on breast milk and parenthood

FAMILY Pete Wentz revealed that wife Ashlee Simpson's breast milk tastes "soury" and "weird" on SIRIUS' The Morning Mash Up! on Monday, usweekly.com reports.

The Fall Out Boy bassist, 29, may not be a fan, but Ashlee and Pete's newborn Bronx Mowgli is: "The baby loves it, it's the only thing he's had a chance to have."

Wentz went on to reveal that Ashlee isn't the only Wentz to put on some pregnancy weight: "I gained 10 pounds at least. I usually hang out around 135, 134, I go up to about 140, and when I hit 148, I get fat face."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Complicated holiday affair for Moss household

PEOPLE Kate Moss has angered partner Jamie Hince by inviting her ex-boyfriend to spend Christmas with her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel is keen to spend time with Jefferson Hack over the festive season for the sake of their six-year-old daughter Lila Grace, but Jamie is said to be furious.

This means inviting both Lila's dad, Jefferson, and her boyfriend to her home — no matter what the consequences, Kate has also invited Jefferson's girlfriend Anouck Lepere to spend the day with them, and is determined to make it as special as possible for Lila.

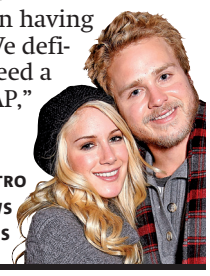
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heidi and Spencer talk kids, in-laws

PEOPLE Newlyweds Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt told all to Ryan Seacrest on his radio show, msn.com is reporting.

When asked whether Heidi's mom disapproves of Heidi's marriage with Spencer, the starlet said her mother's comments were "kinda taken out of context. She was more joking around. She loves Spencer."

And on having kids: "We definitely need a kid, ASAP," Spencer said.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

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FACTORY DIRECT BOXING DAYS!

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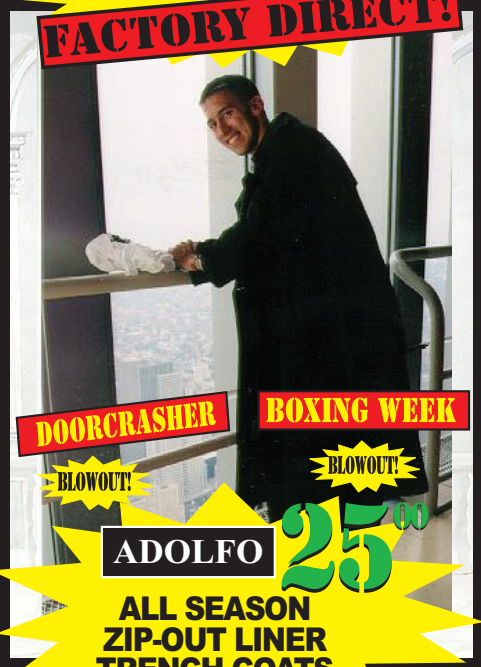

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Vaughan Vaughan Mills Power Centre
Oakville Burloak Power Centre
Kitchener Sunrise Shopping Center
Pickering Pickering Annex
Oshawa Oshawa South Centre
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Today 90% Rain 5° / -7°
Thursday Variable 1° / -8°
Friday Variable 0° / -3°

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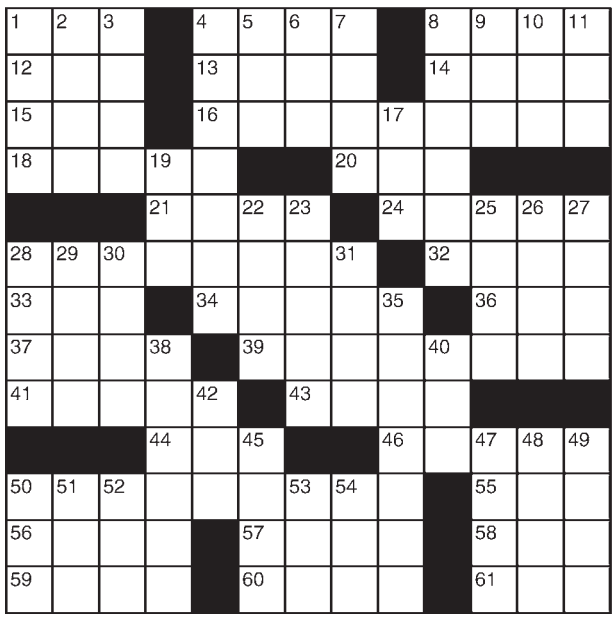


Crossword across

1 Type squares
4 Spring
8 Saharan
12 Sweet potato
13 Aware of
14 — contendere
15 Id counterpart
16 Dime portrait
18 Not limp
20 Tackle moguls
21 Exploding star
24 Nudge
28 Midwestern farmland
32 Rescue
33 Wanted-poster letters
34 Ann —, Mich.
36 — -relief
37 Vivacity, in music
39 Deli lunch order
41 Taco topping
43 Apportion
44 Expert
46 Battery terminal
50 Sincere
55 Exclude
56 Anger
57 Dog bane
58 "— Impossible"
59 Remain
60 Revue segment
61 Make lace

Crossword down

1 Watchful one
2 Creche trio
3 Urban pall
4 City in Argentina
5 Lennon's lady
6 Judge Lance
7 Privation
8 Blacksmiths' blocks
9 Caviar essence
10 Not up to par
11 Morse "E"
17 — out a living
19 Hostel
22 Perp. to hor.
23 Photo book
25 Infant
26 Ellipse
27 TV Batman portrayer
28 City fleet
29 Gumbo base
30 Form of transportation
31 Colour quality
35 Drumming noise
38 Fish-eating hawk
40 Chaps
42 Illustrations
45 Slays, "Sopranos" style
47 Last write-up
48 Computer fodder
49 Formerly, formerly
50 Storefront sign abbr.
51 Chow down
52 — Khan
53 Wapiti
54 Wahine's garland

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			9					
		2		5		3		
		3	1				5	8
6		8			2			4
5								9
7			8			5		1
1	4				9	2		
		6		4		1		
					3			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

C	U	E	D	■	T	W	A	S
A	R	E	A	■	H	A	L	E
P	I	N	S	T	R	I	P	E
■	■	■	H	A	U	L	■	P
T	A	P	E	D	■	■	E	A
E	N	I	D	■	L	A	N	G
A	N	N	■	S	O	L	V	E
M	O	N	O	P	O	L	Y	■
■	■	■	U	P	O	N	■	■
T	E	M	P	O	■	A	M	E
O	R	B	■	F	I	R	I	N
A	G	E	■	E	R	I	E	■
D	O	R	■	D	E	A	N	■

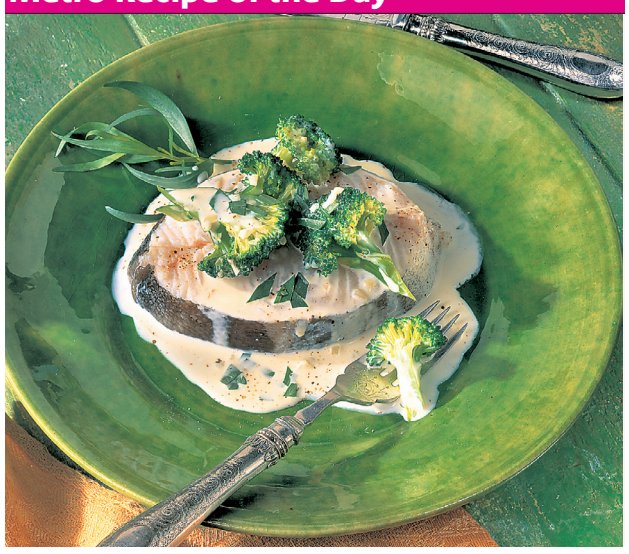
S	I	T						
A	D	O						
F	E	W						
■	■	■						
P	A	E	A	N				
■	■	■						
L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E	
S	O	L	V	E	■	P	E	D
■	B	I	R	D				
H	A	N	D	Y				
■	■	■						
A	M	E	N	■	■	■	■	■
F	I	R	I	N	G	P	I	N
■	L	A	T	E				
E	L	S	E	■	■	■	■	■

2	1	6	9	4	5	3	8	7
5	8	4	1	7	3	6	2	9
3	7	9	2	8	6	1	5	4
1	5	2	7	9	8	4	6	3
9	6	7	5	3	4	8	1	2
8	4	3	6	1	2	9	7	5
7	9	5	3	6	1	2	4	8
4	2	1	8	5	9	7	3	6
6	3	8	4	2	7	5	9	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Cod steaks with creamy broccoli

INGREDIENTS:
4 fresh cod steaks, about 6 oz (170 g) each
2 tbsp (25 mL) extra virgin olive oil
Salt and black pepper
1 shallot
3/4 lb (335 g) broccoli florets
10 sprigs of fresh tarragon
3/4 cup (200 mL) whipping cream

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Dry cod steaks, then brush with 1 tbsp (15 mL) of oil and season well.
2. Cut four pieces of foil, each large enough to enclose a steak. Put one steak on each piece of foil, fold edges together to make a roomy parcel, and crimp to seal. Lay steaks on baking sheet and cook for 15 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, peel and grate shallot. Rinse broccoli and trim into small florets.
4. Heat remaining oil in frying pan and fry shallot until translucent.
5. Add broccoli to pan, stems down, with 2/3 cup (150 mL) of water, and bring to boil, then cover and simmer for 4-5 minutes until broccoli is barely tender. Remove lid, raise heat, and cook until only 1–2 tbsp (25 mL) of water remain in pan. Do not let broccoli burn.
6. Rinse and dry tarragon. Reserve four sprigs as garnish, then strip leaves off the rest and add to broccoli. Stir in cream, season to taste with salt and pepper, and keep warm.
7. Remove foiled steaks from oven, unwrap, and transfer onto four warmed plates. Spoon broccoli over fish, garnish with tarragon, and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Have a health problem checked out. Get resentment off your chest before you explode. Take radical action, if necessary.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A quarrelsome person is being selfish. Tasks will blunt the impact of a fantasy romance. Get cracking on solving a puzzling predicament.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A headstrong person refuses to co-operate. A financial rumour causes a fleeting anxiety attack. A chatty friend criticizes your talent for rejection.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Continue to have faith in your instincts. Too many coincidences will raise eyebrows. Friends are waiting for promises to be kept.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Give a needy person a handout. Something's got to give in a miserable relationship. Make a break for freedom.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A fateful encounter with a dutiful man takes place. There'll be a lot of stress involved. Avoid mindless chit-chat with a passionate person.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You need to get away. You've got nothing to left to lose. An appreciative person responds to an invitation.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Listen carefully to a battle plan. Hopes can now bloom into reality. An aloof person has confidence in a rebel.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your amusement reaches new heights. Organization is crucial to efficiency. A pragmatic person wants to show devotion.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A hypercritical person throws a wrench into plans. Avoid disturbing the peace by rushing in to fix things. Use your imagination to find satisfaction.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A delightful answer will be given. Pamper yourself with treats. Your achievement impresses everyone.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A pesky little pest must be confronted. An interfering hypocrite comes to grief. You can anticipate a change in strategy.

TELL METRO READERS WHAT YOU THINK
NEW "COMMENT & VIEWS"
Whether you agree or disagree about anything you've read in Metro, we want to know.
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metro Do it daily.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Tiny Xmas evergreen in Scotland (1)
2. Didn't make it onto Santa's agenda (1)
3. "Deck the halls" bough absurdity (2)
4. Potter's dirt in Santa's vehicle (1)
5. Actor Ledger's Christmas garlands (1)
6. Brawls over Christmas bulbs for trimming (1)
7. Yuletide Kriss's one-dollar bills (2)

ANSWERS
1. WEE THEE 2. MISSED LIST 3. HOLLY FOLLY 4. SLEIGH CLAY 5. HEATHS WREATHS 6. LIGHTS FIGHTS 7. KRINGLES SINGLES

12-24-08

This day in history

DEC. 24, 1906: Reginald Fessenden transmits the first radio broadcast; consisting of a poetry reading, a violin solo, and a speech.
DEC. 24, 1914: During World War I, the "Christmas truce" begins.
DEC. 24, 1943: In World War II, U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower becomes the Supreme Allied Commander.
DEC. 24, 1968: The crew of Apollo 8 enters into orbit around the Moon, becoming the first humans to do so. They performed 10 lunar orbits and broadcast live TV pictures that became the famous Christmas Eve Broadcast, one of the most watched programs in history.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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EX model shown

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- Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability❖
- 60/40 split-folding rear seats
- Variable intermittent windshield wipers
- Tilt adjustable steering column
- 4-door sedan

OWN IT FROM
$9,995◆
CASH PURCHASE PRICE

HWY: 7.5 L/100KM 38 MPG
CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG◆

★★★★★ 5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal impacts††

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- 4-cylinder 2.4L CVVT, or available 2.7L CVVT V6 engine
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★★★★★ 5-STAR CRASH TEST RATING
NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts††

TOP SAFETY PICK 2009
INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

EX model shown

2009 Sedona LX

- 3.8L 24-valve CVVT V6 engine
- 5-speed automatic transmission
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- Extended wheelbase
- Standard back-up warning system

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CITY: 10.3 L/100KM 27 MPG◆

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NHTSA - Frontal and side impacts††

LX model shown

2009 Sportage

REDESIGNED FOR '09

- 2.0L CVVT, or available 2.7L V6 engine
- Standard six airbags & 4-wheel ABS
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◆Cash purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Sedona LX (SD7519)/2009 Rondo LX AT (RN7519)/2009 Sportage LX MT (SP5519) is $9,995/$19,995/$16,995/$16,995 and includes a cash rebate of $3,600/$6,750/$2,106/$3,806 based on an MSRP of $13,595/$26,745/$19,995/$21,695. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650/$1,650/$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. ❖0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for a term of up to 36 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Term varies by model. ✱No finance payments until April 30, 2009 available on all 2009 models, O.A.C. Maximum terms apply. Purchase financing example: $10,000 at 2.9% purchase financing equals $179 per month for 60 months; cost of borrowing (C.O.B.) is $755 for a total obligation of $10,755. Monthly payment and C.O.B. will vary depending on amount borrowed, the term and down payment/trade. 1% will be added to the applicable interest rate. Offer may not be available through all Kia lending partners. See your local participating Kia dealership for full details. >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Sedona LX is 8.8 L (32 MPG)/13.2 L (21 MPG); 2009 Rondo LX is 7.5 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG); 2009 Sportage LX MT is 7.8 L (36 MPG)/10.3 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ‡Green Score for Kia Rio/Rondo based on manual/automatic transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. ††NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. ✣2009 Sedona awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ^Conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate program; see dealer for details. ✣Some conditions may apply to the $750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ❖Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 models. © 2008 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends January 2, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario/Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation. ◆◆Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. Bluetooth® is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. ▼▼Late availability on Bluetooth hands-free option.